

Environmental Assistance

Introduction

Many businesses have impacts on the environment and are potentially subject to regulations and permitting requirements. Business operations associated with underground storage tanks, air emissions, solid waste, hazardous waste, water discharges, or hazardous materials have an effect on the environment. Examples of some businesses where environmental regulations are applicable are listed below.

Current state and federal regulations can be complicated, burdensome and confusing. As a small business owner, you may not have the time or the resources to keep abreast of ever changing regulations and to determine which laws may affect your business.

Several programs at the federal and local level are designed to help small businesses address the environmental issues that face them. One such program, the Environmental Management Assistance Program (EMAP), is offered by the Small Business Development Center. This program is **free, confidential**, and designed to help not hinder small businesses. The goal for EMAP is to educate small businesses on environmental issues by helping them understand how to:

- Comply with environmental regulations
- Reduce costs
- Prevent pollution
- Minimize waste
- Improve energy efficiency

Other programs include:

- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) www.dep.state.pa.us
- EPA's Small Business Assistance Program www.energystar.gov
- Allegheny County (air quality) 412-442-4174
- PA Technical Assistance Program (PENNTAP) www.penntap.psu.edu

ASKEMAP

The Pennsylvania Small Business Assistance Program, part of the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) effort to assist small businesses, has partnered with the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center's (SBDC) EMAP program to provide expanded free and confidential environmental advisory services to small businesses located throughout the Commonwealth. This partnership replaced ENVIROHELP.

- ASKEMAP Hotline 877-ASK-EMAP
- ASKEMAP Website www.askemap.org

Energy Efficiency (E2) Assistance

Energy efficiency (E2) is also an environmental consideration. Installing energy conservation measures to your building or making your production energy efficient can result in cost-savings for you and reduce the demand for pollution-emitting electric power production.

Energy Conservation Programs

Free technical and financial information on energy efficiency:

- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) www.epa.gov

- Energy Star Small Business (ESSB)
- Small Business Development Center EMAP Program
- 888-STAR-YES

www.energystar.gov

Funding

Pollution Prevention Assistance Account. This is a low-interest loan program to help small businesses implement pollution prevention and energy-efficiency projects. Businesses with 100 or fewer employees can borrow as much as 75% of the total cost for an eligible project up to a maximum of \$50,000. Interest rates are capped at 2% and can be paid back over 7 years.

- PA Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Energy and Technology Deployment
717-783-9981

Resource Manual

An Environmental Self-Evaluation for Small Business: Tool #1, A Practical Guide to Environmental Compliance.

Available from the PA DEP:

www.dep.state.pa.us (pollution prevention)

Small Businesses Subject to Regulation

The following list provides examples but is *not a complete* list of potentially affected small businesses:

- **Auto body shops** – oils/antifreeze, paints, tires, grease, soiled rags (Hazardous waste and residual waste regulations apply)
- **Bakeries and restaurants**– food waste (rendering); oils (grease trap maintenance records); energy (poor equipment/type of equipment); faucets leak? air pollution/malodors?
- **Building cleaning or janitorial maintenance services**
- **Carwashes** – wastewater issues (may require permit to discharge wastewaters) (energy efficiency assistance)
- **Construction firms**
- **Dry cleaners** – chemicals used (perchloroethylene) (hazardous waste regulations), lighting, heating (energy efficiency assistance)
- **Equipment repair** – degreasing/parts cleaning chemicals, soiled rags (hazardous and residual waste regulations)
- **Gas stations** – underground storage tanks
- **Graphic arts studios**
- **House or architectural structure painters**
- **HVAC firms**
- **Interior decorators**
- **Machine Shops**
- **Print shops** – chemicals used, inks, soiled rags (hazardous and residual waste regulations)
- **Retail shops** – residual waste, lights, heating, turn off equipment, recycling, electric wiring (residual waste regulations) (energy efficiency assistance)
- **Small engine repair shops**
- **Vineyards/Wineries**
- **Woodworking makers** – paints/stains, stripping, sawdust/wood waste (hazardous waste and residual waste regulations)



108 Rockwell Hall
600 Forbes Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15282-0103
Phone: (412) 396-6233
Fax: (412) 396-5884
duqsbdc@duq.edu



The Duquesne University SBDC has made reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of this information. It may, however, include inaccuracies or typographical errors and may be changed or updated without notice. It is intended for discussion and educational purposes only and is not intended to and does not constitute legal, financial, or other professional advice. Some materials may provide links to other Internet sites only for the convenience of users. The SBDC is not responsible for the availability or content of these sites. The Duquesne University SBDC does not endorse or recommend any commercial products, processes, or services, or its producer or provider contained in this material or information described or offered at other Internet sites. Funding support and resources are provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Department of Community & Economic Development; through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration; and in part through support from Duquesne University. All services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis. Special arrangements for persons with disabilities can be made by calling 412-396-6233. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA.”