



NHDES Small Business Technical Assistance Program Annual Report – 2022

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About the Program

The Small Business Technical Assistance Program (SBTAP) was established by NHDES in 1992 to provide small business owners and operators free assistance to understand and comply with air and other environmental regulations. This confidential, non-regulatory program provides information about regulatory requirements and technical assistance to encourage compliance with sometimes complex environmental regulations.

Services and Outreach Provided in 2022

From January 2022 to December 2022, SBTAP provided:

328 information requests

SBTAP fields a variety of inquiries from small businesses, NH residents, state agency staff and other assistance providers. A sampling of questions received in 2022 included small quantity hazardous waste generator form guidance, ground water discharges, electronic waste disposal, photo processing, radon testing, climate resiliency, and solvent recycling.

51 social media posts

SBTAP provided key content to NHDES social media accounts about UST inspections, auto body painting, marina boat washing, personal protection equipment, wood finishing, parts washers, lawn mower emissions, pharmaceutical rules, and business provider partnerships.

2 new publications

In 2022, SBTAP partnered with Ground Water Protection to create a publication on marina boating washing activities. The second publication created was the SBTAP Annual Report 2021.

49 site visits

SBTAP visited 36 auto body shops, plus metal fabricators, marinas, wood finishers, and custom packaging manufacturer. Many auto body shops visits were in partnership with the NHDES Small Quantity Generator Self-Certification Program.

8 comments on proposed rule changes

SBTAP reviewed and commented on proposed federal and state rule changes for dry cleaners, pharmaceutical waste generators, asphalt plants and procedural rules.

2 advocacy services

The SBTAP Coordinator advocated for a metal fabricator and metal surface coater.

11 Did You Know webpage updates

The “Did You Know” widget on the SBTAP webpage was updated on a variety of environmental topics, such as guidance on boat washing, cloth bag reuse, Small Business Week, parts washers, small quantity generator videos, and SBTAP contacts in NH and other states.

Small Business Week

For the first time, SBTAP participated with the US Small Business Administration Small Business Week from May 1 – 7, 2022. The outreach included 7 social media posts, press release, NHDES e-news article, and a daily news clip to NHDES staff. Some of the outreach material highlighted White Mountain Fiberglass in Rumney and Bottom of the Hill Auto Body in Antrim, small businesses that SBTAP assisted.

Karen V. Brown Award

National Steering Committee (NSC) of Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs) and Small Business Ombudsmen (SBO) recognized Sara J. Johnson, SBTAP as the 2022 winner of the Karen V. Brown Leadership Award. This award acknowledges the accomplishments of an individual who promotes small business compliance assistance, sustainability, and collaboration nationwide. These individuals have demonstrated leadership through dedication to environmental protection and persistence in building strong partnerships for small business compliance assistance.

“Sara Johnson’s dedication to providing small business assistance can be seen through her continual efforts to actively promote SBTAP services, network with small business providers and trade associations, taking every opportunity to meet one-on-one with owners and operators, and

to update publications with the current rules and best practices. She advocates tirelessly for consistency as well as flexibility to encourage small businesses to comply with environmental requirements while being good environmental stewards,” said Robert R. Scott, Commissioner.



Left: Commissioner Robert Scott. Right: Sara Johnson with the Karen V. Brown Award

SBTAP Governance

The Clean Air Act Amendment of 1990 Title V Section 507 requires each state to establish a program to assist small business with environmental compliance and to allocate funding through Title V fees. SBTAP is one full-time employee and has an annual budget for calendar year 2022 of \$143,000. While the program is financially supported by the Air Resources Division, SBTAP is situated in the Commissioner’s Office in the Planning, Prevention, and Assistance Unit.

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