

# SMALL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) is a non-regulatory program within the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The SBEAP assists small businesses with environmental compliance and encourages businesses to move toward sustainable operations. The SBEAP assists small businesses with a wide range of environmental issues including water quality, solid waste, recycling, pollution prevention, sustainability, energy efficiency, permit acquisition, and advocacy. Assistance from the SBEAP is free and confidential for Montana businesses.

**BREWERY CASE STUDY:** The brewing industry continues to expand across Montana, which is no surprise considering that the state is the nation's second leading producer of malting barley. As of January 2019, there were 83 breweries in Montana. Statewide, the economic impact from breweries is about \$417 million annually including about 800 direct jobs.



According to the Montana Brewers Association, Montana is ranked second nationwide for its number of breweries, around 9.6 per capita. With the growing industry, it is more important than ever for breweries to use sustainable measures to positively impact the planet.

**BREWERY SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT:** In 2016, the SBEAP initiated a brewery sustainability project to incentivize breweries to become more resource efficient. Nine breweries participated in the initial training on how to become more sustainable. The project included a free energy and water use audit and targeted reducing pollutants produced including waste water, carbon dioxide, and solid waste.



**“We have to reduce the amount of stuff we are wasting, and learn how to be more efficient with things. It obviously saves money. When we implemented a program to reduce the amount of packaging we use, we reduced our cardboard use by 2.5 tons/year—probably close to a 40% reduction.”**

- Nolan Smith, Co-Owner  
Philipsburg Brewing Company

The project identified a variety of ways that breweries can increase sustainability including: installing motion sensors in coolers; installing LED lights; installing variable frequency drives (VFD) on the bottling line, process pumps, mash tun, and conveyors; installing a centrifuge to filter beer; installing an efficient heat exchanger; adding hot water tank jackets; insulating hot water piping; adding door strip curtains to drive-in cooler; and replacing windows and doors. If all nine initial breweries implemented the recommended changes, it would equate to over \$500,000 in energy cost savings.

Philipsburg Brewing Company was an early adopter of the brewery training project, which fits their sustainability missions. Nolan Smith, co-owner of Philipsburg Brewing Company, believes that sustainability is just the right thing to do.

