

Our Program

As part of the mission of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect human health and the environment, the Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO) program is committed to advocating for and partnering with the public and small business community to help improve environmental compliance and outcomes.

We achieve this goal by collaborating with various federal and state partners, including EPA leadership and programmatic experts. We also support public inquiries regarding asbestos through our toll-free hotline.

Partner with us!



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800-368-5888



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Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

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Washington, DC 20460



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Advocate • Connect • Serve

Your EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman at Work



Our Purpose

The Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman program serves to advocate for and connect with the public and small business community by providing general guidance and assistance for various environmental and Agency resources.



Advocate

- Promoting small business perspective during the EPA rule development process
- Sharing regulatory and small business outreach information with stakeholders



Connect

- Serving as the Agency small business liaison and addressing public inquiries about asbestos
- Fostering EPA partnerships with state and federal governments as well as trade associations on small business environmental regulations and compliance



Serve

- Providing assistance through a toll-free hotline
- Funding a national website to help increase small business environmental compliance

Our Statutory Authority

EPA's Asbestos Ombudsman

Mandated under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) (15 U.S.C. § 2641-2656).

EPA's Small Business Ombudsman

Established under Section 507 of The 1990 Clean Air Act amendments (42 U.S.C. § 7661f(d)).

As a related responsibility, the ASBO program supports the Agency in considering small business impacts within the rule development process as required under the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA).

Our Key Partnerships

In addition to fostering advocacy and collaboration within EPA, the following ASBO partnerships allow for nationwide information exchange and a shared regulatory support network:

- 1 Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP):**
nationalsbeap.org
- 2 National Compliance Assistance Centers:**
epa.gov/compliance/compliance-assistance-centers
- 3 U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy and Office of National Ombudsman:**
sba.gov/about-sba/oversight