



# Wisconsin Small Business Environmental Council

## 2007-2008 Activity Report Summary

SERVING SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### Who Are We?

- Established in 1994
- One of three components of the Small Business Clean Air Assistance Program administered by Department of Commerce
- Authorized under s. 507 of the Clean Air Act Amendments and implemented under s. 560.11, Wisconsin Statutes
- Nine members appointed for three year terms by either the majority and minority leaders of State Assembly and Senate, the Governor, and the Secretary of Department of Commerce and Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
- Members represent small business owners and the public

### What Are Our Responsibilities?

- Meet regularly to discuss environmental issues affecting small businesses in Wisconsin
- Review and comment on the effectiveness of information and assistance provided to small business by the WDNR
- Comment on whether information is understandable to laypersons
- Review new regulations to see if they meet the Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act criteria
- Convey difficulties encountered by small businesses trying to comply with regulations

### How Are We Helping?

The council followed the progress of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Air Permit Improvement Initiative. Representatives from the WDNR presented at a number of council meetings throughout 2007 and 2008. Council members provided input specifically on WDNR's air permit streamlining efforts. As a result of the council's input, WDNR created new permitting tools that will make it easier for businesses to comply with air pollution rules. Some of the tools created include:

- Construction permit exemptions (for facilities with very low actual emissions <10 tons of emissions per year)
- Registration construction permits (for facilities with low actual emissions < 25 tons per year)
- General permits (standard conditions for specific industry sector sources > 25 tons per year)
- Electronic permit applications
- Web-based permit search and download system, which includes guidance documents

The council applauds the work of the WDNR on the development of these tools. The tools have simplified the air program requirements and have made information more readily available.

Additional topics the council discussed throughout the biennium included:

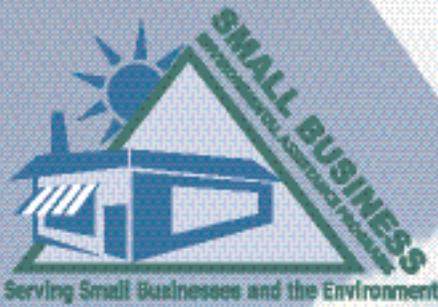
- Biofuel production in Wisconsin
- Area source (i.e., smaller facilities) National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) Rules
- Diesel Truck Idling Reduction and Exhaust Retrofit Grant Programs
- Green Tier: a statutory program that empowers the Department of Natural Resources to build flexible, performance-based working relationships with those committing to superior environmental performance.

The council will continue assisting the Small Business Clean Air Assistance Program, WDNR and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in providing input on environmental rules and compliance assistance outreach efforts.

The Wisconsin Small Business Environmental Council, a component of the state's Small Business Clean Air Assistance Program, provides a chance for small business owners to speak out. Council members comment on the fairness and effectiveness of WDNR and EPA regulations pertaining to small businesses.

The Council also provides a forum for rule makers to gain information on the impact rules have on smaller businesses. Many groups have come to value the opinions of the Council.

**For more information on the Small Business Environmental Council  
visit [commerce.wi.gov/sbcaap](http://commerce.wi.gov/sbcaap), contact [CleanAir@commerce.state.wi.us](mailto:CleanAir@commerce.state.wi.us)  
or call 1-800-HELP BUSINESS (1-800-435-7287).**



# Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs

## Every Program a Partnership

### Each Small Business Environmental Assistance Program is comprised of three parts:

Council members want to assist other small businesses by acting as mentors. Based on their different experiences in dealing with environmental regulations, they can offer advice or refer a business to resources to help them find their way.

- A technical assistance component to provide the detailed help that small businesses need.
- An ombudsman to advocate on behalf of small businesses within the regulatory environment.
- A Compliance Assistance Panel made up of small business owners and representatives to consult and advise on program content.

**“The council provides a voice for small businesses when rules are being developed. Governmental agencies benefit from the great insights into small businesses through the Small Business Environmental Council.”**

**-- Pam Christenson, former Council Member**

### Other Wisconsin programs with which we build working partnerships include:

- Trade Associations
- UW Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education
- Small Business Development Centers
- Other state and local agencies

## Small Business Environmental Council Members:

Michael Simpson, **Council Chair**  
Appointed by Governor  
Member 1997-present  
Reinhart, Boerner, Van Deuren, S.C.  
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Carl Komassa,  
Appointed by Senate Minority Leader  
Member 1994-1997, 1998-present  
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Jay Meili  
Appointed by Speaker of the Assembly  
Member 1998-2007  
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Gerald Jones  
Appointed by Governor  
Member 2005-present  
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Dan Martino, Jr.  
Appointed by Assembly Minority Leader  
Member 2008-present  
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Mark McDermid  
Appointed by Secretary of WDNR  
Member 2002-present  
Director - Bureau of Cooperative Environmental Assistance  
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Jeanne Whitish, **Council Vice Chair**  
Appointed by Governor  
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Steve Aldridge  
Appointed by President of the Senate  
Member 2008-present  
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Pam Christenson  
Appointed by Secretary of Commerce  
Member 2005-2008  
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