SmallBiz@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman Program

A monthly newsletter for the regulated small business community

October 2021

Policy & Regulation

EPA's Draft FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Available for Comment

EPA's *Draft FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan* was published in the Federal Register and is available for public comment through November 12, 2021. The Strategic Plan communicates and provides a roadmap to achieve EPA's priorities over the next four years through the seven goals and four cross-agency strategies. For the first time, EPA's plan includes a strategic goal focused on addressing climate change, as well as a strategic goal to advance environmental justice and civil rights.

U.S. Will Dramatically Cut Climate-Damaging Greenhouse Gases with New Program Aimed at Chemicals Used in Air Conditioning, Refrigeration

On September 23, 2021, EPA issued a final rule establishing a comprehensive program to cap and phase down the production and consumption of climate-damaging hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in the United States. HFCs are potent greenhouse gases commonly used in refrigeration and air conditioning equipment, as well as foams and many other applications. A global phasedown of HFCs is expected to avoid up to 0.5 °C of global warming by 2100. This final rule will phase down the U.S. production and consumption of HFCs by 85% over the next 15 years, as mandated by the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act that was enacted in December 2020 with strong, bipartisan support. Backed by a broad coalition of industry and environmental groups, the law phases down HFCs and ushers in use of more climate friendly and energy efficient alternatives that will save money while protecting the environment. American companies are at the forefront of developing HFC alternatives and the technologies that use them, and the AIM Act provides additional opportunities to innovate.

The HFC Allocation final rule establishes the HFC production and consumption baseline levels from which reductions will be made, establishes an initial methodology for allocating HFC allowances for 2022 and 2023, and creates a robust, agile, and innovative compliance and enforcement system. EPA intends to use the approach established through this rulemaking to issue allowances for 2022 by October 1, 2021 and plans to revisit the approach for subsequent years in a later rulemaking. EPA estimates that the present value of the cumulative net benefits of this action is more than $272 billion from 2022 through 2050, and that the rule will yield cumulative compliance savings for industry. The total emission reductions of the rule from 2022 to 2050 are projected to amount to the

equivalent of 4.6 billion metric tons of CO2 – nearly equal to three years of U.S. power sector emissions at 2019 levels.

EPA will work with the Department of Homeland Security to prevent illegal import and trade of HFCs through an interagency task force. This coordination builds on and is informed by the agencies' long experience collaborating to prevent illegal imports, including imports of ozone-depleting substances and vehicles that fail to comply with Clean Air Act standards.

For more information, visit: https://www.epa.gov/climate-hfcs-reduction/final-rule-phasedown-hydrofluorocarbons-establishing-allowance-allocation.

EPA Plans New Wastewater Regulations, Including First Limits for PFAS, Updated Limits for Nutrients

On September 8, 2021, EPA released Preliminary Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 15 (Preliminary Plan 15), which announces that EPA will undertake three new rulemakings to reduce contaminants including PFAS and nutrients—from key industries. EPA prepares Preliminary Effluent Guidelines (ELGs) Program Plans pursuant to CWA section 304(m). These plans describe the agency's annual review of ELGs and pretreatment standards, and based on these reviews, EPA develops preliminary plans to identify any new or existing industrial categories selected for ELG or pretreatment standards rulemakings and to provide a schedule for such rulemakings. EPA has determined that revised effluent limitations guidelines (ELGs) and pretreatment standards are warranted for: 1) Organic Chemicals, Plastics and Synthetic Fibers category to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) discharges from facilities manufacturing PFAS; 2) Metal Finishing category to address PFAS discharges from chromium electroplating facilities; and Meat and Poultry Products category to address nutrient discharges. Preliminary Plan 15 also discusses the Steam Electric Power Generating category rulemaking that the agency announced on July 26, 2021. EPA initiated that rulemaking to consider strengthening the effluent limits applicable to certain ELG waste streams from coal power plants that use steam to generate electricity.

To view Preliminary Plan 15 and learn how to submit comments, visit: https://www.epa.gov/eg/effluent-guidelines-plan.

EPA Announces First Validated Laboratory Method to Test for PFAS in Wastewater, Surface Water, Groundwater, Soils

EPA, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), published a draft of the first EPA-validated laboratory analytical method to test for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in eight different environmental media, including wastewater, surface water, groundwater, and soils. This draft Method 1633 is a single-laboratory validated method to test for 40 PFAS compounds in wastewater, surface water, groundwater, soil, biosolids, sediment, landfill leachate, and fish tissue. Until now, regulated entities and environmental laboratories relied on modified EPA methods or in-house laboratory standard operating procedures to analyze PFAS in these settings. EPA and DoD will continue to collaborate to complete a multi-laboratory validation study of the method in 2022. This draft method can be used in various applications, including National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The method will support NPDES implementation by providing a consistent PFAS method that has been tested in a wide variety of wastewaters and contains all the required quality control procedures for a Clean Water Act (CWA) method. While the method is not nationally required for CWA compliance monitoring until EPA has promulgated it through

rulemaking, it is recommended now for use in individual permits. Draft Method 1633 complements existing validated methods to test for PFAS in drinking water and non-potable water.

For more information on CWA Analytical Methods for PFAS, visit: https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/cwa-analytical-methods-and-polyfluorinated-alkyl-substances-pfas
For Frequent Questions about PFAS Methods for NPDES Permits, visit: https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/frequent-questions-about-pfas-methods-npdes-permits

Regulation of Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic Chemicals Under TSCA Section 6(h); Phenol, Isopropylated Phosphate (3:1); Compliance Date Extension

EPA is amending the regulations applicable to phenol, isopropylated phosphate (3:1) (PIP (3:1)) promulgated under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to extend the compliance date applicable to the processing and distribution in commerce of certain PIP (3:1)-containing articles, and the PIP (3:1) used to make those articles from March 8, 2021, to March 8, 2022. EPA is also extending the compliance date for recordkeeping requirements applicable to manufacturers, processors, and distributors from March 8, 2021 to March 8, 2022. The articles covered by this amendment include a wide range of consumer and commercial goods such as cellular telephones, laptop computers, other electronic and electrical devices, and industrial and commercial equipment used in various sectors. This final rule is effective September 17, 2021.

For more information visit: https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/persistent-bioaccumulative-and-toxic-pbt-chemicals

EPA Issues Final 2021 Pesticide General Permit

This week EPA announced issuance of the final 2021 NPDES Pesticide General Permit (PGP) with an effective date of October 31, 2021. EPA is issuing this permit for five (5) years in all areas of the country where EPA is the NPDES permitting authority. The requirements of the 2021 PGP are similar to those in the 2016 PGP, some minor updates associated with the Endangered Species Act have been added and are discussed in more detail in the 2021 PGP Fact Sheet. The new permit, which applies in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and on federal and tribal lands, will also update CWA 401 state water quality certifications.

EPA Rescinds Guidance on Maui Supreme Court Decision

On September 15, 2021, EPA's Office of Water (OW) rescinded its guidance memo of January 14, 2021 because it was found to be inconsistent with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Supreme Court decision, County of Maui, Hawaii *v.* Hawaii Wildlife Fund. The Supreme Court found the CWA intent is "that a permit is required when there is a discharge from a point source directly into navigable waters or when there is the *functional equivalent of a direct discharge*" and that a discharge to groundwater can be the functional equivalent of a conveyance to navigable water. EPA/OW is evaluating next steps and plans to use the Supreme Court decision as guiding principles in the interim.

For more information visit: https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-rescinds-previous-administrations-guidance-clean-water-act-permit-requirements

Aerosol Coatings: National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards

This action promulgates national volatile organic compound (VOC) emission standards for the aerosol coatings category under section 183(e) of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The emission standards under CAA section 183(e) require the EPA to control VOC emissions from certain categories of consumer and commercial products to reduce VOC emissions contributing to ozone formation and ozone nonattainment. This final rule establishes nationwide VOC reactivity-based standards for the aerosol coatings category. EPA estimates this rule will reduce nationwide emissions of VOC from the use of aerosol coatings by an estimated 17,130 tons (15,570 Mg). This represents a 19.4 percent reduction of 88,300 tons (80,270 Mg) of VOC emissions from the product category. EPA expects the final rule also will reduce emissions of the hazardous air pollutants toluene and xylene.

For more information visit: https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/aerosol-coatings-national-volatile-organic-compound-emission

Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Pyrolysis and Gasification Units

This advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) will assist in the potential development of regulations for pyrolysis and gasification units that are used to convert solid or semi-solid feedstocks, including solid waste (e.g., municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial waste, hospital/medical/infectious waste, sewage sludge, other solid waste), biomass, plastics, tires, and organic contaminants in soils and oily sludges to useful products such as energy, fuels and chemical commodities. An ANPRM will provide an opportunity for stakeholders, including potentially impacted small businesses, to provide information on the details of pyrolysis and gasification units and processes. Based on data and information received through this ANPRM, the agency will evaluate how best to regulate the pyrolysis and gasification units.

For more information visit: https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/advance-notice-proposed-rulemaking-pyrolysis-and-gasification

Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20-9.B)

EPA is issuing significant new use rules (SNURs) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) for chemical substances which were the subject of premanufacture notices (PMNs). This action requires persons to notify EPA at least 90 days before commencing manufacture (defined by statute to include import) or processing of any of these chemical substances for an activity that is designated as a significant new use by this rule. This action further requires that persons not commence manufacture or processing for the significant new use until they have submitted a Significant New Use Notice (SNUN), EPA has conducted a review of the notice, made an appropriate determination on the notice, and has taken any risk management actions as are required as a result of that determination.

This rule is effective on November 15, 2021. For purposes of judicial review, this rule shall be promulgated at 1 p.m. (e.s.t.) on September 30, 2021. For general information contact: The TSCA-Hotline (202) 554-1404; *TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov*

For more information, visit: https://www.epa.gov/reviewing-new-chemicals-under-toxic-substances-control-act-tsca/recent-activities-new-chemicals

Key Dates and Upcoming Opportunities

EPA Webinar on Freshwater Explorer: Interactive Map of Water Quality

EPA's Freshwater Explorer is an interactive mapping tool for visualizing water quality. States, tribes and other groups contribute water quality information to a database through the Water Quality Exchange (WQX). To make it easier to visualize these data, EPA scientists developed this interactive web-based mapping tool. Freshwater Explorer provides information about background and observed conductivity, a measure of salt content, for freshwater streams, lakes and wells in all 50 US states, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Salts can harm aquatic life and can be indicative of the presence of other pollutants. Data for nutrients will be added in 2022. Attend the EPA Tools & Resources Webinar October 20, 2021 3-4 PM ET to learn more about the EPA Freshwater Explorer or to Register for the Freshwater Explorer webinar!

Nominations Open for the 2022 Clean Air Excellence Awards Program

This notice announces the competition for the 2022 Clean Air Excellence Awards Program. EPA established the Clean Air Excellence Awards Program in 2000 to recognize outstanding and innovative efforts that support progress in achieving clean air. All entries for the Clean Air Excellence Awards Program must be postmarked by November 30, 2021.

Additional information on this awards program, including the entry form, can be found on EPA's Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC) website: *https://www.epa.gov/caaac*.

$2 Million Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience Grant Program Open for Applications

Initiated by EPA, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Launches EJ4Climate, $2 Million Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience Grant Program to address environmental inequality and promote community-level innovation and climate adaptation for underserved, vulnerable communities, and Indigenous communities across North America. This program will provide funding directly to Indigenous communities and community-based organizations to deliver environmental justice and advance local solutions to adapt to climate change. For this grant, the CEC is calling for initiatives that:
Support community resilience to climate change and climate-related impacts;
Yield tangible, equitable benefits for communities by addressing or adapting to climate impacts;
Consider local knowledge and transform that knowledge into an innovative action or solution; and
Build partnerships that respond to community-identified challenges.

Possible projects under the grant program could include addressing extreme weather impacts, transitioning to clean energy and/or transportation systems, or utilizing traditional ecological knowledge to address climate change impacts. Eligible applicants include non-profit and non-governmental organizations, environmental groups, community-based associations, Tribal nations, and Indigenous Peoples and communities. Apply by November 14, 2021.

For more information, visit: http://www.cec.org/EJ4climate/

EPA Wastewater Webinars

EPA has a new website to announce future webinars and archive past webinars. Check back frequently to find the most recent recordings.

EPA Webinar: Smart Sewer Systems and Smart Data Infrastructure

Register: Dec 7, 2021 01:00 PM, Eastern Time
Description: U.S. EPA is hosting a two-part webinar series on smart sewer systems and smart data infrastructure. The first webinar was October 14. Smart sewer systems use real-time monitoring and other advanced technologies to improve decision-making regarding capacity, management, and operation and maintenance programs. Smart data infrastructure is a system of technology tools and solutions focused on the collection, storage, and/or analysis of water-related data. Both webinars will highlight how communities have implemented these approaches to improve their sewer system management and decision-making. O.J. McFoy from the City of Buffalo, New York, Sewer Authority and Stacia Eckenwiler from City of Columbus, Ohio, will speak on December 7, 2021. Disclaimer: The views expressed in these presentations are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views or policies of EPA. Any mention of trade names, products, or services does not imply an endorsement by the U.S. Government or EPA. EPA does not endorse any commercial products, services, or enterprises.

In-Depth Training Series on CREAT—Adapting to Climate Change

Register Here: SESSION 1: Tuesday, October 19, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. MST
This webinar provides a training overview, as well as details on the use of CREAT Module 1: Climate Awareness, which covers inputs of basic utility information to increase awareness of climate change impacts and CREAT Module 2: Scenario Development, which covers understanding utility risk and designing scenarios of threats based on climate change projection data.
SESSION 2: Thursday, October 21, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. MST. This webinar provides details on the use of CREAT Module 3: Consequence and Assets, which covers outlining potential consequences and cataloging critical assets and Module 4: Adaptation Planning, on how to inventory current actions that develop resilience and how to design adaptation plans.
SESSION 3: Tuesday, October 26, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. MST. This webinar provides details on the use of CREAT Module 5: Risk Assessment, which covers assessing risk from a changing climate and evaluating adaptation plans. Additionally, the webinar includes a presentation on resources for financing adaptation options.
SESSION 4 (Optional): Tuesday, November 9, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. MST. This webinar provides an opportunity for attendees to ask questions related to climate change, risk assessment, financial resources, or any other items, as well as more details on financing adaptation options.
As part of the training, you will complete short homework assignments that reinforce skills for conducting your own climate change risk assessment. To prepare for the training you are encouraged to view the Building Resilience and Adapting to Climate Change Impacts: Introductory Session Webinar for Drinking Water and Wastewater Utilities once it is available on EPA's CRWU website.

Spotlight

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 24-30, 2021

Each year, National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) is a call to bring together individuals, organizations, industry, and tribal, state, and local governments to raise awareness of lead poisoning prevention and reduce childhood exposure to lead. This year, NLPPW highlights the many ways parents and caregivers can reduce children's exposure to lead and prevent the serious health effects of lead. EPA works to raise awareness, provide resources, and encourage preventive actions to decrease childhood lead exposure during the week and beyond.

EPA is launching a new training initiative, Enhancing Lead-Safe Work Practices through Education and Outreach (ELSWPEO), to raise awareness about childhood lead exposure and protect environmentally overburdened and underserved communities across the United States from lead exposure. Many homes, apartments and child-care facilities built before 1978 contain lead-based paint. When disturbed, lead-based paint can release toxic lead dust and cause lead exposure, which is particularly harmful to children. While lead is dangerous to all children, lead exposure disproportionately impacts low-income families and their communities, so the free trainings offered by ELSWPEO is an important step.

ELSWPEO aims to serve local communities and advance environmental justice by increasing both the number of renovations, repair and painting (RRP) certified firms and consumer demand for lead-safe work practices. This two-pronged approach to reducing lead exposure includes the following initiatives:

- Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) training for contractors: EPA will provide free trainings, in both English and Spanish depending on the location, for contractors working in selected communities, offering an opportunity for them to become RRP certified. Anyone who is paid to perform work that disturbs paint in housing and child-occupied facilities built before 1978 must be certified per the Lead RRP Rule, and this training is designed to equip contractors and firms with the tools to serve their communities and adhere to the Lead RRP Rule.
- Lead Awareness Curriculum Train-the-Trainer sessions for community leaders: EPA will offer free sessions, in English with simultaneous Spanish interpretation, designed to equip community leaders with tools and resources to educate their communities about lead, lead exposure and actions that can be taken to reduce and prevent childhood lead exposure, including hiring RRP certified contractors. The Lead Awareness Curriculum is a series of four modules which include lesson plans, worksheets, key messages, presentation slides, and kids' activity sheets that community leaders and other instructors can use to improve public awareness about lead and preventative actions.

EPA will facilitate both RRP trainings and Lead Awareness Curriculum Train-the-Trainer sessions in the following communities: Albuquerque, NM; the Bismarck-Mandan, ND area; Hartford, Conn.; Los Angeles County, Calif.; Miami, Fla; Peoria, Ill.; Reading, Pa.; San Juan, Puerto Rico; San Diego County, Calif.; Boise, Idaho; and Trenton, NJ. These communities reflect the diversity of the United States, have known lead exposure issues, and demonstrated a need for RRP certified contractors.

More information on ELSWPEO in English. More information on ELSWPEO in Spanish.

Clear Information on the RRP Rule for Everyone

Contractors and communities across the Nation can find a clear discussion of the requirements of the RRP Rule and where to find links to key information on EPA's website from the Construction Industry Compliance Assistance Center. See all the information you need, including links to training search, recordkeeping tools, the Compliance Guide and more at http://www.cicacenter.org/leadrrp.php See it all in Spanish at https://www.cicacenter.org/sp/sp_leadrrp.php Also see a clear summary of the RRP Rule requirements in the featured Spotlight article in the February, 2021 SmallBiz@EPA Bulletin

EPA Publishes Multi-Industry PFAS Study – 2021 Preliminary Report

This preliminary report summarizes the readily available information and data EPA's Office of Water collected and reviewed concerning industrial discharges of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

(PFAS) from five industrial point source categories: organic chemicals, plastics, and synthetic fibers (OCPSF) manufacturing; metal finishing; pulp, paper, and paperboard manufacturing; textile mills; and commercial airports. PFAS are a family of thousands of synthetic organic chemicals that contain a chain of carbon-fluorine bonds, one of the strongest chemical bonds. Many PFAS are highly stable, water- and oil-resistant, and exhibit other properties that make them useful in a variety of consumer products and industrial processes. Owing to these properties, PFAS do not easily degrade naturally and thus accumulate over time. Exposure to certain PFAS can lead to adverse human health impacts.

This preliminary report summarizes the manufacture, use, and discharge of PFAS from facilities in the categories EPA reviewed. This preliminary report presents EPA's estimates of the types and concentrations of PFAS, including legacy long-chain PFAS and replacement short-chain PFAS, present in wastewater discharges from these facilities. Few facilities in these industries currently have monitoring requirements, effluent limitations, or pretreatment standards for PFAS in their wastewater discharge permits. EPA identified available wastewater treatment technologies that may reduce PFAS in wastewater discharges from facilities in these industrial point source categories.

For more information, visit: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-09/multi-industry-pfas-study_preliminary-2021-report_508_2021.09.08.pdf

EPA Releases New Report on Nutrient Removal Technologies

EPA has posted a new report entitled Innovative Nutrient Removal Technologies: Case Studies of Intensified or Enhanced Treatment on the Wastewater Technologies Clearinghouse here. EPA analyzed the long-term performance of five municipal facilities in the U.S. and one in Canada that implemented innovative technologies or process enhancements designed to significantly intensify treatment or enhance the removal of nitrogen or phosphorus species. The analysis centered on assessing technology performance at each facility and statistical variability of plant effluent nutrient concentrations over a three-year period. Each case study presents a detailed process description, performance analysis, assessment of process train consistency in meeting permit limits, and lessons learned in process implementation.

EPA Tools for Communities Cleaning Up after a Disaster

EPA has developed this interactive mapping tool of 12 types of recyclers and landfills that manage disaster debris. This tool provides information and locations of over 20,000 facilities capable of managing different materials which may be found in disaster debris. The tool was created in EPA Region 5 in 2010 and has expanded to include data for all 50 states, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands. To learn more about this tool, visit: https://www.epa.gov/large-scale-residential-demolition/disaster-debris-recovery-tool.

For more information on how your community can plan for future disaster cleanups, visit: https://www.epa.gov/large-scale-residential-demolition/disaster-debris-planning.

EPA Checklists for Water Utilities

EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water has developed Incident Action Checklists to assist Water Utilities during emergency events. Drinking water and wastewater utilities can use these twelve checklists to help with emergency preparedness, response and recovery activities.

EPA Announced 2021 Safer Choice Partner of the Year Award Winners

On September 22, 2021, EPA recognized 33 Safer Choice Partner of the Year award winners across 16 states and the District of Columbia for achievement in the design, manufacture, selection, and use of products with safer chemicals, as part of Pollution Prevention Week. The Safer Choice program helps consumers and purchasers for facilities, such as schools and office buildings, find products that perform and are safer for human health and the environment. This year's awardees have all shown a commitment to pollution prevention by reducing, eliminating, or preventing pollution at its source prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal.

Applicants were encouraged to show how their work with safer chemistry promotes environmental justice, bolsters resilience to the impacts of climate change, results in cleaner air or water, or improves drinking water quality. The 2021 Partner of the Year award winners represent a wide variety of leadership organizations from each of the 10 EPA regions. These include businesses, comprising small- and medium-sized companies and women-owned companies; state and local governments; non-governmental organizations; associations; and others.

For more information visit: https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-2021-safer-choice-partner-year-award-winners

EPA Announces Recipients of $12 Million in Grant Funding to Support Small, Rural, and Tribal Wastewater Systems

On September 20,2021, EPA announced the selections for a new $12 million grant program to provide training and technical assistance to small, rural, and Tribal wastewater systems. This funding will help reduce pollution, protect water quality, and improve public health in struggling communities across the country. This new grant program complements EPA-funded technical assistance activities for drinking water utilities. EPA is announcing the selected recipients for the 2020 Training and Technical Assistance Grant for Small Wastewater Utility Systems who will each receive $4 million in funding:

- Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- National Rural Water Association
- University of New Mexico/Environmental Finance Center Network

Training and tools to improve small wastewater system operations and management practices promote sustainability and support EPA's mission to protect public health and the environment. These grants will provide training and technical assistance for the prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution. The areas of assistance include asset management, capital improvement planning, fiscal planning and rate setting, managerial leadership, funding coordination, and achieving compliance with the Clean Water Act.

For more information, visit https://www.epa.gov/small-and-rural-wastewater-systems/technical-assistance-treatment-works.

EPA Honors 2021 Green Power Leaders

EPA announced the Green Power Leadership Award Winners for 2021, honoring five Green Power Partners across the United States: Boston University; Dane County, Wisconsin; Microsoft; Starbucks Company-Owned Stores; and the University of California. This year's five recipients are using approximately 8.4 billion kilowatt-hours of green power, enough to power more than 792,000 average American homes for a year.

EPA established the Green Power Partnership (GPP) in 2001 to increase organizations' voluntary green power use and investment to advance the American market for green power and

development of those resources. The GPP provides a framework that includes credible usage benchmarks, market information, technical assistance, and public recognition to companies and other organizations that use green power. In 2020, the GPP had more than 700 Partners voluntarily using nearly 70 billion kilowatt-hours of green power annually. Partners include a wide variety of leading organizations such as Fortune 500® companies; small and medium sized businesses; local, state, and federal governments; and colleges and universities.

For more information visit: www.epa.gov/greenpower

EPA Awards Nearly $6 Million for Research on Potential Risks from Pollutants in Sewage Sludge

EPA announced $5,976,976 in funding to four institutions for research to support states, municipalities, and utilities in determining the potential risks to human health and the environment from pollutants found in biosolids, also known as treated sewage sludge. Results from this research may inform the development of standards and policies for biosolids management.

For more information, visit: https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncer_abstracts/index.cfm/fuseaction/recipients.display/rfa_id/675/records_per_page/ALL.

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Do you have a story, upcoming event, resource, or information that may be beneficial to the small business community? Please email us at asbo@epa.gov to provide a brief submission with a suggested title, your contact information, and a website link for more information on the topic.

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