SMALL BUSINESS ADVISOR

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR WISCONSIN SMALL BUSINESSES

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Nominations for the Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air Recognition Awards and Commuter Champion Award must be submitted by Friday, March 21, 2014.

Partners Making A Difference

Nominations are now open for two awards recognizing organizations that took voluntary actions to improve Wisconsin's air quality in 2013.

The Recognition Awards program, sponsored by the Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air, was established in 1996 as a way to recognize businesses and organizations for their accomplishments and to share information about their success with other organizations. The Commuter Champion Award program was added in 2008 to recognize those organizations that provide exceptional transportation options to their employees.

The nomination deadline for both awards is March 21, 2014. The nomination process is easy and the award offers a positive image among the public, customers, and employees. You are encouraged to nominate your organization or an organization that you work with, or to pass this information along to others that may want to nominate themselves. Awards will be announced at the annual Clean Air Extravaganza event May 22 in the Milwaukee area.

For nomination guidelines and a list of previous winners, see the Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air website. For more information, please contact Jessica Lawent at 414-263-8653 or jessica.lawent@wisconsin.gov.

Nominations for The Earth Day Business Sustainability Awards must be submitted by Monday, March 31, 2014.

Nominations are now open for three awards to recognize organizations that took voluntary actions to develop a sustainable process, a sustainable product, or sustainable leadership over the last year.

In an effort to recognize those Wisconsin businesses who have embraced the principles of sustainability, The Earth Day Business Sustainability Awards have been developed. The awards are designed to honor businesses for their leadership

in developing innovative products, processes, and business models. The awards are designed for those Wisconsin businesses that can demonstrate that economic performance and environmental and social performance go hand-in-hand.

The nomination deadline for all three awards is March 31, 2014. The Earth Day Business Sustainability Awards have the potential to strengthen relationships with customers, employees, prospective employees and your supply chain. For additional information, including nomination guidelines, please see the Wisconsin Sustainable Business Earth Day Awards website. For more information, please contact Tom Eggert at 608-267-2761 or thomas.eggert@wisconsin.gov.

Small businesses may apply for workforce training program grants under the Department of Workforce Development Fast Track program by April 10, 2014.

If you are a business owner, HR manager or if you play another leadership role in your company or organization, we invite you to ask yourselves the following questions:

- Are you having difficulty attracting and retaining qualified workers?
- Do you have an innovative, customized worker training strategy for building human capital and increasing your skilled workforce in Wisconsin?
- Are you interested in working with a collaboration of employers, education and/or workforce professionals to improve the way in which Wisconsin develops and deploys talent?
- Do you have training needs in the manufacturing, IT, health care, transportation, logistics and distribution, financial services, or construction occupations?
- Are you a small business with less than 50 full time equivalents looking to develop an internal training program for your existing or newly hired employees?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then Governor Walker's new Wisconsin Fast Forward initiative might very well be a solution to your talent development needs.

The application deadline for an eligible small business grant is April 10, 2014.

Please visit Wisconsin Fast Forward to learn more about the Round 2 opportunities and requirements.