



Small Business Advisor - October - 2014

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Small Business Environmental Council Meeting October 16th, 2014

The next Small Business Council meeting is on October 16th, from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM, in room 713 at DNR Central Office, 101 S. Webster St. Madison, WI. The council will be discussing the Small Business Environmental Program. The council welcomes members of the public to attend the meetings. The meeting agenda is [here](#) and more information on the council is [here](#).

Nominate Your Business or Organization for an SBA Award

Deadline Extended to October 13!

Have you worked with a great small business or a supportive small business development organization--including your own? There are just a few weeks left to nominate your company or organization for one of fifteen SBA awards categories. Awardees are recognized in the Business Journal and at SBA's annual Awards Breakfast in the spring, and some are invited to participate in National Small Business Week. For details and the nomination form, [click here](#).

Proper Disposal of Old Electronics for Small Businesses

Most small businesses use electronics, but what do you do with the old electronics? Each electronic device contains valuable and harmful materials that need to be managed properly. If electronics are landfilled, dumped or sent to an unregulated recycler, toxic materials can get into the soil, air and water; workers can be hurt; and valuable materials are lost.



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Most electronic devices are banned from landfills and incinerators, and must be reused or recycled, or managed as hazardous waste, after their useful life. When small businesses need to dispose of old electronics, they must send them to:

1. An organization willing to reuse them;
2. A legitimate electronics recycler; or
3. A hazardous waste management facility.

It is important to ask questions to make sure your electronics will be properly recycled, as required by law. It is also important to make sure that your recycler has a good system in place for destroying personal, financial and especially confidential data from computers and other electronics.

For more information visit this [website](#), or contact Sarah Murray at DNRWae-cycling@Wisconsin.gov, phone: 608-264-6001.

October 5-11 is Fire Prevention Week

Smoke from open burning contains a mixture of harmful gases and small particles. Breathing these small particles can cause asthma attacks and severe bronchitis, aggravates heart and lung disease, and may increase the likelihood of respiratory illnesses.

In many parts of Wisconsin - urban as well as rural areas - burning has been the waste disposal method of choice for a significant part of the population for many years. People choose to burn for a variety of reasons, including:

- waste collection service is unavailable or inconvenient in their area;
- they want to avoid the cost of waste collection services and/or landfill fees;
- they want to keep wastes out of the landfill; and

"We've always done it this way."

For more information regarding Wisconsin's open burning regulations, visit the [website](#). For general information on burning, visit the EPA Burn Wise [website](#).

EPA's Waters of US Proposal, Comments due October 20, 2014

The EPA released a proposed rule to clarify protection under the Clean Water Act for streams and wetlands. The proposed rule will benefit businesses by increasing efficiency in determining coverage of the Clean Water Act. The proposed definitions of waters will apply to all Clean Water Act programs. It does not protect any new types of waters that have not historically been covered under the Clean Water Act.

"We are clarifying protection for the upstream waters that are absolutely vital to downstream communities," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "Clean water is essential to every single American, from families who rely on safe places to swim and healthy fish to eat, to farmers who need abundant and reliable sources of water to grow their crops, to hunters and fishermen who depend on healthy waters for recreation and their work, and to businesses that need a steady supply of water for operations."

Specifically, the proposed rule clarifies that under the Clean Water Act and based on the science:

- Most seasonal and rain-dependent streams are protected.
- Wetlands near rivers and streams are protected.
- Other types of waters may have more uncertain connections with downstream water and protection will be evaluated through a case specific analysis of whether the connection is or is not significant.

The proposed rule preserves the Clean Water Act exemptions and exclusions for agriculture.

For more information or to submit comments, visit [EPA Waters of the United States](#).



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EPA Proposes New Rule Regulating Mercury in Dental Amalgam Effluent

EPA has proposed a rule that would limit the amount of pollutants, including mercury, discharged from dental offices as a result of procedures involving dental amalgam.

The proposed rule would require all affected dentists to control mercury discharge into water by reducing their discharge of dental amalgam to a level achievable by best available technology (amalgam separators) and the use of Best Management Practices. The proposed rule would allow dentists to install, operate and maintain amalgam separators to demonstrate compliance. If dental offices already have installed amalgam separators that do not meet the proposed discharge removal efficiency, they would still be in compliance with the rule.

For more information, see the [Fact Sheet](#), or the proposed rule [website](#).

DISCLAIMER — This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. This guidance does not establish or affect legal rights or obligations and is not finally determinative of any of the issues addressed. This guidance does not create any rights enforceable by any party in litigation with the State of Wisconsin or the Department of Natural Resources. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.



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