

#### If you have questions, we still have answers.

The Nevada Business Environmental Program (BEP) at the University of Nevada, Reno remains open and staffed with a statewide team to provide free and confidential business advisory services to Nevada businesses.

If you have any environmental or energy questions or concerns, do not hesitate to get in touch with us. While the COVID-19 emergency may have us primarily working remotely we are staffed as always from 8am - 5pm, Monday through Friday.

Our toll-free hotline is still taking calls and we are promptly answering all emails. We are also available to communicate via calls, photos, and online video meetings.

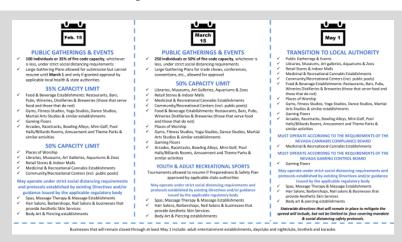
Hotline: (800) 882-3233 Email: help@unrbep.org

Visit our BEP website.

#### **News & Updates**

# Nevada's New COVID-19 Recovery Plan and Timeline

This month, the State of Nevada released Nevada's Roadmap to Recovery which includes updated mitigation measures for businesses and a timeline with increasing capacity limits and other changes. New



guidelines went into effect February 15th and the next sets of guidelines will go into effect March 15th and May 1st. Read more about current COVID-19 mitigation measures on nyhealthresponse.ny.gov.

#### Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for Small Businesses

Open NOW for Small Businesses with Fewer than 20 Employees

In order to reach the smallest businesses, the US Small Business Administration (SBA) will offer the next round of <u>Paycheck Protection Program</u> (PPP) loans to businesses with **fewer than 20 employees** and sole proprietors only from Wednesday, February 24 through Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

SBA also announced <u>additional program changes</u> to make access to PPP loans more equitable. Changes include:

- Allowing sole proprietors, independent contractors, and self-employed individuals to receive more financial support by revising the PPP's funding formula for these categories of applicants
- Eliminating an exclusionary restriction on PPP access for small business owners with prior non-fraud felony convictions
- Eliminating PPP access restrictions on small business owners who have struggled to make student loan payments by eliminating student loan debt delinquency as a disqualifier to participating in the PPP
- Ensuring access for non-citizen small business owners who are lawful U.S. residents by clarifying that they may use Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to apply for the PPP

Business counselors at the Nevada SBDC are available to provide assistance with applications.

#### **Environmental News**

#### **Federal Air Quality Proposed Rules**

**US EPA Extends Comment Periods** 

If your business falls into one of the industry sectors mentioned below, you have more time to review and comment on regulatory amendments proposed by US EPA. Some of the proposed changes could potentially affect your operations.

The Clean Air Act requires US EPA to set technology-based standards for the emission of hazardous air pollutants from various industry sectors – i.e., National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP). Within eight years of setting the initial standards for a sector, the law requires US EPA to assess remaining health risks through the residual risk and technology review process. If risks continue to be identified, then additional risk-based standards are required. In the last couple of months, EPA has issued a number of proposed rules based on the residual risk and technology review process. To review summary fact sheets of the proposed changes and updates by sector, go to the links below and note the new deadlines for public comment for each rule:

Mercury Cell Chlor-Alkali Plants - March 24, 2021

Primary Magnesium Refining - March 24, 2021

Flexible Polyurethane Foam Fabrication Operations - March 29, 2021

Refractory Products Manufacturing – March 31, 2021

Carbon Black Production Area Sources - March 31, 2021

Ethylene Production - March 31, 2021

Cyanide Chemical Manufacturing - March 31, 2021

#### **EPA Sustainable Marketplace**

Recommended Standards and Ecolabels for Purchasing Products

Confused about what products to buy for your business that are environmentally friendly and contribute to meeting your sustainability goals?

In the past 10 years, ecolabels have become prevalent on packaging and are touted by retailers, distributors, and manufacturers. The <a href="EPA">EPA</a> Sustainable Marketplace has information to help navigate ecolabels and help purchasers to understand the standards behind each label.

In addition to learning about the different ecolabels, you can also search labels based on categories of products such as construction materials or custodial products. The recommended labels are included in the EPA marketplace for multi-attribute (i.e., lifecycle based) standards and address key product categories.

Whether you are an institutional purchaser, federal or state agency, or a consumer, the <u>EPA</u> <u>Sustainable Marketplace</u> can help you narrow down your product choices based on the standards and ecolabels used and guide you to more environmentally and human friendly purchasing. If you need assistance with setting up a sustainable purchasing initiative or understanding the ecolabels and standards, call BEP!



#### **Funding Opportunities**

### **Wood Stove Change-Out Rebates Available for A Limited Time** in Carson City and Douglas County

Are you home more during the pandemic? Do you have an older wood stove or zero clearance wood fireplace insert that isn't getting the job done anymore or is using too much wood?

Improve the heat and comfort of your home, use less wood each winter, and save some money by replacing your old pre-1992 wood stove with a new US EPA-certified wood stove, pellet stove, or natural gas stove. You will also be helping your local community keep the air we breathe cleaner by emitting less particulate matter and soot into the atmosphere – a particular problem when there is a wintertime air inversion.

Rebates between \$600-\$1,200 are available, with a \$400 bonus rebate available for residents of the Tahoe Basin! Call BEP today for more information.

## Free & Confidential Environmental Assistance We look forward to hearing from you.



### Stay Safe to Stay Open Nevada Wear a Mask!

The Nevada Business Environmental Program is a partnership program funded, in part, by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the US Environmental Protection Agency.