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News & Updates

Applications Open Now for NDEP Recycling Grant

Applications Due July 12, 2024

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) has opened the application process for the 2025 Recycling Grant. The overall goal of this funding opportunity is to divert materials away from Nevada landfills by increasing access to recycling or improving the quality of materials collected. The grant program has a total of \$75,000 available in fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025).

More information about the grant program and applications is available [here](#). Download the application [here](#). The deadline to submit applications is 4 p.m., July 12, 2024. Any questions regarding application preparation and submission should be directed to Kayla Alm at kalm@ndep.nv.gov, or 775-687-9467.

Draft Environmental Justice Strategic Plan

Feedback Due July 8, 2024

The US Department of Justice is [seeking input](#) to improve the draft US Environmental Justice Strategic Plan. The public may provide comments via virtual and in-person listening sessions or provide written comments to OEJ@usdoj.gov, by online survey, or postal mail to Office of Environmental Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044-7611. All written comments must be submitted or postmarked by Monday, July 8, 2024.

Training Opportunities

Upcoming Washoe County Air Quality Workshops

Two Virtual Workshop in June

The Nevada BEP team is excited to announce our upcoming workshops in June of 2024. These workshops will be specific to facilities located in Washoe County under the jurisdiction of Northern Nevada Public Health.

Gas Dispensing Facilities in Washoe County, June 10, 2024 at 12pm

This workshop will focus on how gas dispensing facilities can stay in compliance with local and federal regulations, common violations found and how to avoid them, as well as how facilities can become permitted through Northern Nevada Public Health. [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Annual Emissions Reporting for Facilities in Washoe County, June 24, 2024 at 12pm

This workshop is great for all operators who have an air permit in Washoe County because everyone with a permit must submit annual emissions reports. We will cover why these reports are needed, when to submit these reports, and the information that will need to be reported. [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

To learn more about our air quality workshop series, please visit our website's air quality workshop [page](#) and check out our [Events Calendar](#).

If you have any questions or suggestions for future workshop topics you would like to see, please reach out to Zack Rice at zrice@unr.edu. BEP welcomes suggestions on air quality topics that would be helpful to best manage and operate facilities in Nevada.

US EPA Webinar on June 20, 2024 to Help Communities and Organizations Promote the Collection of Small-Format Batteries

On June 20, 2024, at 11am PST the US EPA is hosting a webinar on effective public outreach and education efforts that promote the proper management of used small-format consumer batteries and battery-containing electronic products. Discussion will include the components of campaigns including messaging, materials, and outlets/mechanisms. The session will highlight some success stories and participants will have the opportunity to share what they are doing in their own communities. Anyone involved in the collection and recycling of batteries is welcome to participate.

[Register for the June 20 webinar now.](#)

Regulatory Information

Dust Control Permitting Requirements in Nevada

As the building season is ramping up, now is the time to ensure you meet all requirements for minimizing fugitive dust at your site. If your site is inside Washoe County and you are disturbing one (1) acre or more, you must apply for a [Dust Control Permit](#) with Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) before beginning operations. If your site is outside of Washoe and Clark counties, and you are disturbing five (5) acres or more, you are required to apply for a [Surface Area Disturbance \(SAD\) Permit](#) from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) before the start of operations.

Please reach out to Nevada BEP if you need additional information or assistance with your permit applications.

US EPA Extends Comment Period for Revisions of Open Burning/Open Detonation of Hazardous Waste Explosives Proposal; New Map Published

On March 20, 2024 the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed changes that would amend the standards for facilities that use open burning and open detonation to treat waste explosives. In response to requests for additional time, US EPA extended the comment period through June 20, 2024. Learn about this proposed rule and submit comments [here](#).

If you are interested in learning more about where these facilities are located, check out US EPA's [new map](#) publishing the location, identification numbers, permitting statuses, and more of facilities that treat hazardous waste explosives by open burning or open detonation.

US EPA Finalizes Ban on Most Uses of Methylene Chloride

On April 30, 2024, US EPA finalized a ban on most uses of [methylene chloride](#), due to concerns that the chemical can cause cancer, neurotoxicity, liver harm and even death. Methylene chloride is used by consumers for aerosol degreasing and paint and coating brush cleaners, in commercial applications such as adhesives and sealants, and in industrial settings for making other chemicals.

EPA's final risk management rule requires companies to rapidly phase down manufacturing, processing and distribution of methylene chloride for all consumer uses and most industrial and commercial uses, including its use in home renovations. Consumer use will be phased out within a year, and most industrial and commercial uses will be prohibited within two years. For additional information, read the US EPA press release [here](#).

US EPA Finalizes First-Ever National Drinking Water Standard to Protect 100M People from PFAS Pollution

On April 10, 2024, US EPA issued the first-ever national, legally enforceable drinking water standard intended to protect communities from exposure to harmful per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as "forever chemicals" that are potentially linked to cancer.

EPA estimates that between about 6% and 10% of the 66,000 public drinking water systems subject to this rule may have to take action to reduce PFAS to meet these new standards. All public water systems have three years to complete their initial monitoring for these chemicals and they must inform the public of the level of PFAS measured in their drinking water. Where PFAS is found at levels that exceed these standards, systems must implement solutions to reduce PFAS in their drinking water within five years. In addition to today's final rule, EPA announced nearly [\\$1 billion in newly available funding](#) through the Bipartisan

Infrastructure Law to help states and territories implement PFAS testing and treatment at public water systems and to help owners of private wells address PFAS contamination.

For more, read the US EPA press release [here](#).

US EPA Rule Update Regarding Fossil Fuel Fired Power Plants

On April 25, the US EPA announced a set of final rules attempting to reduce pollution from fossil fuel-fired power plants and protect communities and improve public health without compromising reliable electricity delivery. These rules, established under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, aim to cut climate, air, water, and land pollution from the power sector. The rules include:

- A rule for existing coal-fired and new natural gas-fired power plants to control 90% of their carbon pollution.
- An updated Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) rule, reducing toxic metal emissions by 67% and mercury emissions by 70% from lignite-fired sources.
- A rule reducing wastewater pollutants from coal-fired plants by over 660 million pounds annually, benefiting communities with environmental justice concerns.
- A rule mandating safe management of coal ash in previously unregulated disposal areas to prevent groundwater contamination.

To read more about these rules please visit the US EPA website [here](#).

US EPA Finalizes Rule for Oil and Natural Gas Operations

The US EPA has issued a final rule, effective May 7, 2024, intended to significantly reduce methane and other emissions from oil and natural gas operations, including existing sources nationwide. The rule includes New Source Performance Standards for new, modified, and reconstructed sources, and Emissions Guidelines for states to develop plans to limit methane from existing sources. Methane is regarded as a potent climate pollutant contributing to global warming. US EPA has indicated that cutting methane emissions can provide immediate climate benefits

The US EPA posted a [Small Business Compliance Guide](#) to assist small businesses in understanding the requirements of the 2024 New Source Performance Standards for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry.

Read more on the final rule [here](#).

Sustainability Corner

Latest *Sustainable Nation* Podcast

Derek Young from CBL Properties

Host Josh Prigge speaks with Derek Young, Vice President ESG at CBL Properties to discuss:

- Engagement with tenants in sustainability initiatives
- Best practices for sharing data and fostering communication between landlord and tenant
- Whether the politicalization of ESG has impacted the approach to ESG at CBL or in the industry at large
- Advice and recommendations for sustainability professionals



The *Sustainable Nation Podcast* is made available through a [partnership](#) with the Nevada Business Environmental Program. Be sure to also check out the full [library](#) of podcasts.

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We look forward to hearing from you.

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If you have any environmental or energy questions, do not hesitate to get in touch with us. Our confidential toll-free hotline is taking calls and we are promptly answering all emails. We are staffed from 8am – 5pm, Monday through Friday.

If you are interested in having BEP visit your business for a free on-site assessment, give us a call. We are also available to communicate via calls, photos, and online video meetings.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about why it makes sense to work with BEP!

The Nevada Business Environmental Program is a partnership program funded, in part, by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and Northern Nevada Public Health's Air Quality Management Division.