



Supplemental Environmental Projects



Introduction to SEPs

Rachel Wilson-Roussel
SEP Coordinator, CDPHE





What is a SEP?



Four main criteria:

- Project implemented voluntarily as a result of an enforcement action
- Project that produces environmental or public health benefit
- Beyond what is required for compliance
- Compliance with the Department's SEP Policy.



CDPHE SEP Policy



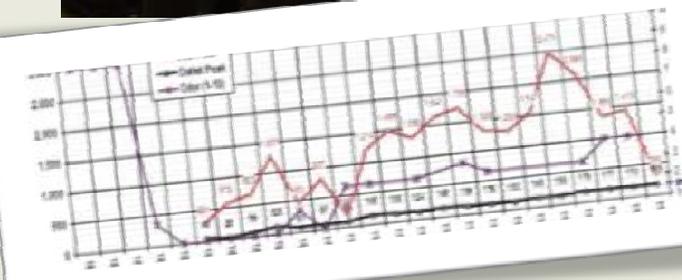
- Offers a more lenient approach to SEPs than the EPA as the policy does not have a media nexus requirement to the violation.
- Includes a preference for a geographic nexus to violation.
- Stresses the need to quantify benefits and emphasizes reporting requirements.
- Does not allow the Department to accept or manage SEP funds.



Types of SEPs



- **First Party (Internal) SEP**
A project implemented on-site. Includes a mitigation ratio greater than 1:1.
- **Third Party (External) SEP**
A donation made to a third party for the implementation of a SEP. Typically includes a mitigation ratio of 1:1.
- **First Party to Benefit a Third Party**
A donation of material/equipment or other services to benefit a third party.



As part of an APCD settlement, Atmel in Colorado Springs installed odor controls using vapor-phase activated carbon for low-concentration emissions of process VOCs that have low odor thresholds.



Eligible Categories of SEPs



1) Pollution Prevention – any project that substantially reduces or prevents the generation or creation of pollutants through:

- ✦ Source Reduction
- ✦ Alternative/Renewable Energy
- ✦ Waste Minimization (closed-loop processes or other efficiency measures)
- ✦ In-process Recycling
- ✦ Conservation/Energy Efficiency



Eligible Categories of SEPs



2) Pollution Reduction –
reduces the amount of pollution discharged through recycling treatment of containment:

- ✦ End-of-pipe or stack removal technologies
- ✦ Improved operation and maintenance
- ✦ Recycling of residuals for use as raw materials in off-site production





Eligible Categories of SEPs



3) Environmental Restoration and Protection

- ✦ Repair damage beyond the need to remediate damage done by a violation
- ✦ Wetland restoration
- ✦ Development of conservation and/or protection programs
- ✦ Conservation easements





Eligible Categories of SEPs



4) Environmental Assessments



Through the CSU Industrial Assessment Center, an entity conducted an P2 audit and is working to implement all audit recommendations.

(Photo Credit: CSU IAC)

- ✦ Pollution Prevention Assessments/Audit
- ✦ Development and implementation of Environmental Management Systems
- ✦ Further mitigation may be allowed for implementation of activities recommended in the assessment.



Eligible Categories of SEPs



2007 Smart Growth Advocates Project - Solar Educational Module and Curriculum.

In 2010, a SEP provided financial support for Environmental Education in the Grand Valley.

5) Environmental Education and Training

- ✦ Priority give to education projects that include an “action component”
- ✦ Education projects which follow National Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education are preferred
- ✦ Respondents are required to contract with an appropriate external expert to develop and implement an training program



Eligible Categories of SEPs



6) Public Health



- ✦ Provides preventive, screening, diagnostic, therapeutic health care or education related to actual or potential threats to human health.
- ✦ Epidemiological data collection and analysis.



Western Colorado SEP Stats



Over the last 5 years, 59 SEPs representing almost \$6 million were approved or completed to benefit the following western slope counties:

- Garfield
- Rio Blanco
- Mesa
- San Miguel
- Delta
- Routt
- La Plata
- Moffat
- Montrose

However, almost 80% of these SEPs were in 3 counties.



We Want Your SEP Ideas!



Download the **SEP Idea Form** from the Department's SEP Website: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/oeis/sep/>

The idea form is intended to be a **conceptual** description of the project. Itemized and detailed budgets are not required. If an SEP match is found, the SEP Coordinator will contact you and additional time will be provided to add necessary project details based on the amount of available SEP funds.



SEP Pilot Process for Denver and Adams Counties



The goal of the pilot is to increase accessibility to the SEP process in order to fund high quality projects that will benefit communities affected by violations of environmental laws and regulations.



How is this Pilot Different?



The pilot:

- allows a greater amount of time for the SEP selection process to take place;
- publically solicits for project applications;
- convenes an informational session for interested applicants and provides an opportunity for questions;
- emphasizes the importance of environmental justice within the application criteria; and
- develops a formal evaluations process and application review committee which includes representation from multiple divisions within CDPHE, the participating regulated entity, and local governments.



SEP Pilot Stats



- In all, 39 applications responded to the solicitation requesting over \$7.3 million in funding.
- 8 applications were recommended by the Evaluation Committee and approved for funding by CDPHE and Suncor for a total of \$1.2 million.
- Funded organizations include 5 non-profits, 2 local governments and one school district.

For more information on the SEP Pilot visit:

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/oeis/sep/pilotprocess>



Water Quality Improvement Fund



Created in 2006 through legislation, the Fund will provide grants to the following project categories:

- **Category 1 (Up to \$50,000/yr)** – Stormwater management training and best management practices training to reduce the pollution of state waters.
- **Category 2 (10%/yr)** - Projects that improve the water quality in the community or water body which has been impacted by a water quality violation that resulted in a penalty being imposed.
- **Category 3 (60%/yr)** – Planning, design, construction, or repair of stormwater projects and domestic wastewater treatment facilities identified on the current fiscal year's Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan.
- **Category 4 (30%/yr)** - Nonfederal match funding for the current fiscal year's nonpoint source projects as approved by the Commission.



Water Quality Improvement Fund



For more information on the WQIF see:

- Water Quality Control Commission Regulation **No. 55**
- <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/> Click on link to *“Water Quality Improvement Fund”*

FY 2013 WQIF Request for Applications was released on July 26th with applications due by **August 31st**. Total funding available for Categories 1 - 3 is \$570,000. Approved projects are scheduled to begin on October 1, 2012.

A separate RFA will be released for allocating \$180,000 in Category 4 projects at a later date.



Questions?



SEP Contacts

Patrick Hamel
Sustainability Program
Manager
303-692-2979

Rachel Wilson-Roussel
SEP Coordinator
Sustainability Program
303-692-2976

