



October 8, 2014

Council Connections

Bridging Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties



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U.S. Small Business Administration

SBA

Your Small Business Resource

SBA Seeking Small Business Week Award Nominees

The U.S. Small Business Administration Baltimore District Office is proud to announce that SBA's online portal is ready to accept nominations for its 2015 National Small Business Week Awards, including the annual Small Business Person of the Year award. The dedicated web portal <http://awards.sba.gov> provides all the guidelines and has made it much easier to submit and track submissions of nominees for National Small Business Week.

All nominations must be submitted online, post-marked or hand delivered to the SBA no later than 3 p.m. EST, Monday, Jan. 5, 2015. In addition to the portal, nominations can also be sent directly to SBA's Baltimore District Office - for contact information and other District Office information visit online at www.sba.gov/md or call (410) 962-6195.



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Marcellus Shale Risk Assessment

The draft "Assessment of Risks from Unconventional Gas Well Development in the Marcellus Shale of Western Maryland", co-authored by the Maryland Departments of the Environment and Natural Resources, has been released for a 30-day public review and comment period. It is available online by clicking [here](#).

Comments must be received by the close of business on November 3, 2014.

Comments should be sent to marcellus.advisory@maryland.gov with the words "Risk Assessment" in the subject line. Alternatively, comments can be sent by postal service mail to:

Ms. Brigid Kenney
Senior Policy Advisor
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21230



Obama Administration Announces Climate Action Champions Competition

The Obama Administration is committed to taking decisive action to combat climate change. Today, the Administration announced a new Climate Action Champions competition that will identify, showcase, and invest in up to 15 local and tribal governments across the country that demonstrate an ongoing commitment to cutting carbon pollution and preparing for the impacts of a changing climate. The competition will be administered by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and will be implemented in collaboration with a broad range of Federal agencies.

In addition to being recognized as climate leaders, the designated Champions will receive technical assistance to bolster their current and planned actions around carbon pollution mitigation and climate resilience. Each of the selected communities will be assigned a coordinator to help them leverage existing Federal programs and resources to support the implementation of their climate strategies; and, in certain competitive federal grant programs, the Champions will receive a preferred status - helping them develop new approaches, identify new synergies, forge new partnerships, and surface gaps in what we know. The Champions will have the opportunity to engage in peer-to-peer learning with other communities throughout the country and to showcase their efforts on the national stage.

The application for the Competition will be open until October 27, and it can be found [here](#).

www.tccwmd.org

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