Services to Support EMFACT Users

The Northeast Waste Management Officials’ Association (NEWMOA) and the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) have collaborated since 2005 to develop and support a free materials use and profitability software tool, called Energy & Materials Flow & Cost Tracker (EMFACT). EMFACT is designed to be used within companies for systematically tracking materials and energy use; releases, discharges, and wastes; and associated costs in ways that can create value for their business. The tool can provide a comprehensive picture of resource use and its relation to production and planning to help improve both business and environmental performance.

The primary beneficiaries of EMFACT are those companies and organizations that implement it to aid with setting pollution prevention (P2) priorities, identifying value-added opportunities for sustainable production, and implementing other materials and energy efficiency improvements. State, local, and tribal environmental and technical assistance programs, university-based assistance programs, and private sector consultants can benefit by having a tool to help their clients identify P2 opportunities and quantify benefits and costs. Other advantages include:

- Easy navigation and data management
- Connecting material inputs and all outputs, including products, wastes, and other environmental releases to estimate mass balances and flows
- Effective tracking of all material inputs, including chemicals, commodities, and fuels, and their associated costs
- Effective tracking of all wastes, wastewater discharges, and air emissions
- Automated reminders and notices about upcoming reporting and other deadlines
- Automated reports on materials use efficiency and environmental releases
- Easy transfer of data to spreadsheets for further analysis and reports

As a tool for better understanding and optimizing resource use, EMFACT merges the aims of environmental performance and lean manufacturing to reduce unnecessary wastes and costs.

NEWMOA contracted with Sullivan International Group to develop EMFACT and provide training support. In 2013, the EMFACT partners launched an open source website for EMFACT so that users could access the source code and modify and improve the tool to suit their needs.

EMFACT download and supporting materials:

Support Services for EMFACT Users
NEWMOA and Sullivan International Group are available to provide cost effective support services for EMFACT users. These services include:
- Support for installing EMFACT on a company’s network
- Onsite, webinar, or Skype-based training to teach users how to set up EMFACT, understand the interface and functions, follow the navigation, generate reports, link to and use existing data, and other basic functions to help them get started
- Onsite assistance to help EMFACT users set up and customize the tool to address their unique needs and to create customized reports and outputs
- Assistance with modifying and improving the software to address unique user specifications and reports
- Assistance with understanding the EMFACT source code and addressing questions and comments from the developers
- Assistance with deploying EMFACT, including setting priorities and helping with initial data input and report generation
- Other assistance as requested

To take advantage of these services, users should contact Andy Bray at abray@newmoa.org or (617) 367-8558 x306 to discuss needs. If requested, NEWMOA will prepare a proposal for services and will specify the fees by task, including a breakdown of the hourly rate for staff time. The proposal may include support by NEWMOA and/or Sullivan staff.

NEWMOA staff can provide training onsite or remotely to introduce users to EMFACT, help with set-up, assistance with deploying EMFACT and starting initial data input and report generation, and assist with customizing EMFACT. Depending on the tasks and NEWMOA’s staff involvement its rates range from $100-125/hour. If there is any travel involved, those expenses would need to be reimbursed at cost.

Sullivan International can provide support with installing EMFACT on networks, modifying the software to address unique client needs, making changes to the user interface and other upgrades to the software, adding new functions to EMFACT, and understanding and modifying the source code. Depending on the tasks a Sullivan’s staff involvement its rates will vary and quotes are available upon request. If there is any travel involved, those expenses would need to be reimbursed at cost.