

**NEWMOA'S**  
**Northeast Assistance & Pollution Prevention Roundtable Strategic Plan**  
**2008 – 2010**  
*October 2007*

**What Are NEWMOA & The Northeast Assistance and Pollution Prevention Roundtable?**

The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA) is a non-profit, non-partisan interstate association that was established by the governors of the New England states as an official interstate regional organization, in accordance with Section 1005 of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), to coordinate interstate hazardous and solid waste activities. The organization was formally recognized by the US EPA in 1986. NEWMOA's membership is composed of the state environmental agency directors of the hazardous waste, solid waste, waste site cleanup, emergency response, pollution prevention, and underground storage tank programs in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Northeast Assistance and Pollution Prevention Roundtable (called the Roundtable) is a program of NEWMOA.

The NEWMOA member states recognize that many pollutants and wastes do not respect state boundaries and solving the problems associated with them requires cooperation among neighboring states. Moreover, solutions to environmental problems may often require the participation of business, environmental organizations, and other stakeholders who operate on a regional basis. By coordinating their efforts through NEWMOA the states gain greater efficiency and effectiveness in addressing many of the environmental challenges that they face. Furthermore, states benefit from sharing resources and experiences through NEWMOA because they enhance their ability to develop and implement their programs and learn from each other's successes and mistakes.

**Mission**

NEWMOA's mission is to develop and sustain an effective partnership of states to explore, develop, promote, and implement environmentally sound solutions for the reduction and management of materials and waste, and for the remediation of contaminated sites, in order to achieve a clean and healthy environment.

The group fulfills this mission by providing a variety of support services that:

- facilitate communication and cooperation among member states and between the states and the US EPA; and
- support the efficient sharing of state and federal program resources to help avoid duplication of effort and to facilitate development of regional approaches to solving critical environmental problems in the region.

NEWMOA formed the Roundtable in 1989 to enhance the capabilities of the state and local government environmental officials in the Northeast to implement effective multi-media source reduction and assistance programs to promote sustainability and improvement in public health and the environment. The Roundtable serves state and

local environmental assistance programs by:

- managing a regional roundtable of state and local environmental programs
- managing a resource center for information
- conducting training sessions for state officials
- researching innovative and source reduction strategies and techniques
- coordinating joint policy and program development

### **Structure**

The NEWMOA Board of Directors establishes the budget, policies, and programs of the Association. The Board consists of the Directors of the member state pollution prevention, solid waste, hazardous waste, and waste site cleanup programs. The Board meets face-to-face four times per year, usually for a day and a half. The Board has created a Steering Committee for the Northeast Assistance and Pollution Prevention Roundtable (called the "Roundtable") to establish the priorities and annual workplan for the Roundtable and advise the NEWMOA staff and Board on programmatic initiatives. The Steering Committee meets via conference call at least four times per year. The members of the Steering Committee are the Directors or the managers of the states' assistance and pollution prevention programs. For a current list of Steering Committee members, visit <http://www.newmoa.org/prevention/workgroups.cfm>.

The full Roundtable meets face-to-face once or twice a year and has been holding two-day annual meetings in the summer for a number of years. The Roundtable has also developed various projects and these are managed by Workgroups. In 2007, Workgroups that were actively involved with Roundtable Projects included:

- Marina Workgroup
- Pollution Prevention Information Dissemination Workgroup
- Pollution Prevention & Compliance Assistance Metrics Workgroup

Workgroups meet through conference calls and on occasion face-to-face. They are often supported by an email listserv to facilitate information sharing and communications and the members communicate via email.

NEWMOA also supports Networking Groups that are established to facilitate information sharing among the state staffs that are interested in a particular topic. In 2007, NEWMOA facilitated an Auto Recycling Networking Group.

The Roundtable conducts two annual surveys of the Steering Committee. The first survey is conducted at the end of the fiscal year and is designed to provide NEWMOA with recommendations on priorities for regional training activities in the following fiscal year. The second survey is conducted at the beginning of the fiscal year and is designed to provide a list of the states' priorities for their assistance and pollution prevention activities in the upcoming year. The results of both of these surveys provide important input to establishing the workplan and priorities for the Roundtable.

### **Strategies**

In Fiscal Year 2007, the Roundtable Steering Committee and the NEWMOA Board of

Directors developed the following list of strategies for the Association to help achieve its mission in the next three years and to inform the Association's annual planning and budget process. NEWMOA develops program and project specific goals, strategies, and activities in its annual workplan.

**Strategy Number 1: Help states develop approaches to and tools for assistance and pollution prevention program measurement including effective and efficient methods for collecting, managing, analyzing, presenting, and sharing information and data.**

The Roundtable assists the member states to: manage and analyze measurement information; promote greater efficiency and avoid duplication of effort by individual states; help states identify opportunities for regional cooperation; promote consistency, where appropriate, in assistance and pollution prevention results data definition and collection; and provide useful information and analysis for individual state decision-making and program planning. NEWMOA's member states recognize the importance of measuring the effectiveness of their environmental programs. The Association provides assistance to the states by contributing expertise and by facilitating the use, where appropriate, of consistent measures so that states can examine more effectively how their programs are working.

The following outlines the Roundtable's near-term priorities:

- Gather, analyze, and present pollution prevention information online through the Regions 1 and 2 online P2 Results Data System
- Provide support and assistance to the states that have implemented or are implementing the Pollution Prevention & Compliance Assistance Metrics Database Software to manage their in-house data
- Provide support and assistance to states to help improve their data collection efforts by sharing effective calculators, data assumptions, and survey design and collection methods, particularly for targeted sectors and pollutants
- Hold annual meetings in EPA Regions 1 and 2 to provide a forum for sharing information on new developments in pollution prevention and assistance measurement and training on the use of new software and online measurement tools
- Develop and maintain the Energy and Materials Flow and Cost Tracker tool and assist and train users and state programs with using and disseminating the tool
- Coordinate efforts with the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable/P2Rx P2 Results Task Force
- Coordinate efforts with Common Measures Project and Environmental Results Program (ERP) Consortium on effective assistance and P2 measures

**Strategy Number 2: Develop and deliver training and provide opportunities for enhanced professional communications**

Maintaining and expanding the expertise and knowledge of its professional staff and management is important to the delivery of effective environmental services and

programs in the states. The Roundtable has historically provided a variety of training opportunities for its member states to help them maintain their standards for Agency performance. Furthermore, because many of the assistance and pollution prevention programs in the states face similar technical and programmatic issues, developing and delivering training to address these challenges on a regional basis is efficient and avoids duplication of effort. The Roundtable provides a formal and informal forum for member staff and management to learn from each other and improve their management, technical, and other professional skills.

The following outlines some of the Roundtable's near-term priorities:

- Design and deliver a series of web conferences on priority topics, as determined through the annual training survey and by the Steering Committee
- Convene interstate discussions of multimedia assistance experience (i.e., best practices, lessons learned) and develop and deliver training
- Develop brainstorming sessions for peer-to-peer collaboration on joint problem solving related to measurement and other high priority topics and challenges
- Design and deliver face-to-face training, as resources allow, on high priority topics

**Strategy Number 3: Develop and disseminate pollution prevention and multi-media assistance information resources**

NEWMOA is one of the eight regional pollution prevention information centers that make up the Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange (P2Rx™). The mission of P2Rx™ is to facilitate a national network of regional centers dedicated to improving the dissemination of pollution prevention information in the service provider community.

The goals of P2Rx™ are to:

- Serve as the first stop for pollution prevention (P2) information for environmental service providers
- Increase the awareness, accessibility, and usability of P2 information

NEWMOA, as the Northeast P2Rx™ Regional Center, provides pollution prevention information and other services to state and local governments and other environmental assistance providers in the region.

The following outlines the near-term priorities of the Northeast Regional P2Rx Center:

- Develop, update, and maintain P2 Topic Hubs and P2 Technology Profiles on priority sectors, topics, and technologies
- Maintain and expand the following databases on the NEWMOA Website: Assistance and P2 Programs and Assistance and P2 Activities/Projects
- Update and maintain P2 News and Calendar on the NEWMOA Website
- Publish the newsletter, *Northeast Assistance and Pollution Prevention News* twice a year
- Support and promote a Rapid Response service on the website to provide a free, short turn-around research service for member states
- Promote all P2Rx products and services to member states

**Strategy Number 4: Coordinate examination of common emerging environmental challenges; recommend unified regional positions and present to Federal and state policy makers; and develop and implement coordinated regional approaches and programs**

NEWMOA assists member states in identifying and defining emerging issues, particularly those that may be appropriate for regional cooperation and problem solving. In some cases, states may be more efficient and effective at solving their environmental problems by cooperating regionally on program development and implementation than if they were to address those issues individually. Furthermore, the Association provides a forum for sharing different approaches and best practices and solutions for addressing emerging state challenges.

The NEWMOA state programs recognize that their ability to effectively advise EPA, other federal agencies, and individual states is enhanced when they can find areas of consensus on key regulatory and policy issues and present those views as a unified position. From its inception the Association has helped facilitate the member states' interactions with key federal agencies. Furthermore, the states have used the Association to share their comments and recommendations on national environmental issues to learn from each other and share viewpoints. When there is a uniquely regional perspective or concern regarding an environmental problem, the Association assists the states in articulating that view and sharing it with appropriate national groups and agencies.

In some cases, the NEWMOA member states may determine that their pollution prevention and environmental assistance programs would be substantially enhanced through an initiative undertaken by the Association, such as a multi-stakeholder process to evaluate options for addressing particular problems associated with a sector, waste, emission, or technology. In these cases the NEWMOA Directors may ask the Association and seek funding to support this kind of activity.

The following outlines some of NEWMOA's near-term priorities:

- Assist states with implementing projects to address climate change and to promote energy efficiency
- Help states identify and conduct research on emerging toxic pollutants that are of concern on a multi-state or regional basis and examine information on safer and "greener" alternatives
- Share information on effective and available pollution prevention technologies, products (such as green cleaners), and best practices that could be more widely promoted and adopted within the region
- Prepare NEWMOA position papers and letters on key regulatory and policy issues of concern to the assistance and P2 programs, in collaboration with national organizations, as appropriate
- Help states identify best practices in innovative/alternative approaches to compliance, enforcement, and permitting, particularly strategies that promote the integration of pollution prevention into those regulatory functions

- Support and facilitate the Marina Workgroup
- Initiate a regional Hospitality Workgroup

**Strategy Number 5: Procure resources to sustain the Roundtable and assist states in identifying funding sources to support their programs**

Sustaining the efforts of the Northeast Assistance and P2 Roundtable's activities is a priority for NEWMOA. This involves working with EPA Regions 1 & 2 to identify possible funding sources for basic Roundtable activities and special projects. In addition, NEWMOA helps the state programs to procure resources for their projects and initiatives by helping to identify possible funding sources. NEWMOA is also interested in supporting joint efforts that help individual state programs and regional efforts that are facilitated by the Association. Individual member states sometimes have a need to procure resources to assist them with particular projects that can be most effectively provided by NEWMOA's staff and management. In most cases, the results of the projects that Association undertakes for specific states can be shared with and would benefit the other member states. This can include research, data collection and analysis, specific community-based projects, outreach and education activities, and others.

The following outlines NEWMOA's near-term priorities:

- Expand NEWMOA's role as grant funding clearinghouse
- Ensure ongoing support for the Roundtable's basic coordination efforts, including the training activities, information sharing, and strategic initiatives
- Procure support for special projects of the Roundtable, including A and P2 measurement efforts, sector initiatives, and projects to reduce targeted pollutants
- Facilitate shared service contracts among states