

# **FISCAL YEAR 2007 PROJECT Persistent, Bioaccumulative, & Toxics (PBT) & Other Priority Chemicals**

## **Reducing Uncontrolled Open Burning of Solid Waste in the Northeast**

Project Strategy: Reduce releases of dioxin related to barrel burning of trash; coordinate with NESCAUM on their assessment of major sources of dioxin emissions in the Northeast.

Dioxin is a class of highly toxic and persistent chemicals that are frequently associated with various combustion sources of air pollution. EPA is preparing to release a report reevaluating the health risks of dioxin and its major sources. According to the preliminary results of this analysis, backyard burning of residential waste is a significant uncontrolled source of dioxin emissions. The Agency anticipates that its report will demonstrate the significance of the health effects of dioxin, both cancer and non-cancer risks, and the impact of air pollution control efforts on reducing dioxin emissions nationwide.

Open burning of domestic waste is an important challenge in the overall efforts to control dioxin emissions in the Northeast. The Northeast state environmental agencies are developing effective ways to reduce this source of dioxin and other air pollutant emissions in the region. The goals of this project are to facilitate and coordinate the northeast states' activities to:

- Understand the scope and nature of open waste burning in the Northeast by conducting an emissions inventory of sources
- Assess solid waste capacity and costs associated with alternatives to waste burning
- Develop consistent assistance activities in the region to promote compliance with regulations
- Develop and implement effective public outreach campaigns throughout the region
- Coordinate with other EPA regional offices (beyond EPA Regions 1 and 2) to develop and distribute education and outreach materials

In FY 2007 NEWMOA plans to undertake the following:

- Continue to support state education campaigns and strategies
- Continue to coordinate with NESCAUM to support state efforts to reduce open burning of waste
- Continue to manage Open Waste Burning Workgroup
- Hold a workshop on agricultural plastics recycling

This project is funded by EPA Region 1-New England.

To access public outreach materials developed under this project visit [www.newmoa.org/solidwaste/burning.cfm](http://www.newmoa.org/solidwaste/burning.cfm). For more information contact: Terri Goldberg, NEWMOA, (617) 367-8558 x302; [tgoldberg@newmoa.org](mailto:tgoldberg@newmoa.org).