

FISCAL YEAR 2007 PROJECT

Solid Waste

Beneficial Use Determinations

Project Strategy: Help NEWMOA member states improve their beneficial use determination (BUD) programs through sharing information.

A variety of companies and individuals periodically approach state waste programs with plans to turn a previously discarded material into a commodity and ask for a determination that the proposed use is acceptable. These so-called Beneficial Use Determinations (BUDs) allow a waste that was previously disposed to be used in new applications, materials, and products, and thereby reducing disposal cost and, in some cases, providing a new source of income. In light of their shrinking waste disposal capacity, the NEWMOA states are interested in supporting the reuse of non-hazardous waste materials as a way to reduce the amount of material sent to disposal facilities. However, states are concerned about the environmental impacts of these alternative uses. In addition, responding to the individual proposals places demands on state staff resources.

In FY 2007 NEWMOA is initiating a new project with EPA that includes NEWMOA member states and five states outside the NEWMOA region. The main objective of the new project is to improve the information contained in the existing, members-only online BUDs database that was developed by NEWMOA in 2001. NEWMOA will work with the states to increase the number of fields in the database and to upload the most recent state data. The project will also serve as a forum to share information on the pros and cons of various states' BUD program approaches.

The effort is funded by a grant from EPA.

To access fact sheets developed on specific BUDs visit www.newmoa.org/solidwaste/bud.cfm. For more information on NEWMOA's BUDs efforts contact: Jennifer Griffith, NEWMOA, (617) 367-8558 x303, jgriffith@newmoa.org; or Andy Bray, NEWMOA, (617) 367-8558 x306, abray@newmoa.org.