

FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT Assistance & Pollution Prevention

Pollution Prevention Conference in Puerto Rico

Project Strategy: Enhance the pollution prevention efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands by providing a forum for information sharing and training.

NEWMOA, in partnership with the Puerto Rico Solid Waste Management Authority (SWMA), will begin planning a Pollution Prevention Conference to be held in Puerto Rico in FY 2009. The purposes of the two-day conference will be: to provide a forum for discussing pollution prevention issues among federal, state, and local government; industry; academic researchers; NGOs; and others; and to facilitate the transfer of knowledge from well established programs in the Northeast states to programs in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

NEWMOA and SWMA, in consultation with EPA Region 2, will establish a Conference Steering Committee to assist with the conference agenda development and stakeholder identification and engagement. The Committee would include representatives from EPA Region 2, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Island governments; industry; academic researchers; NGOs; and others. A critical element for the success of the Conference will be the ability of NEWMOA/SWMA to engage and partner with local institutions (e.g., academic, government, NGOs). The Conference Steering Committee will play a crucial role in this effort.

The P2 Conference will take place in FY 2009 in Puerto Rico, at a time deemed by the Steering Committee to be the best for maximizing participation. The topics to be covered will be determined by the Steering Committee and the proposals submitted under the call for content, but based on ongoing efforts in the region would likely include:

- P2 in hospitality and the Green Hotels in Region 2 Stewardship Challenge;
- Innovative compliance strategies that integrate pollution prevention and help companies go beyond compliance (e.g., the Environmental Results Programs or ERP);
- Government P2 program development;
- Municipal and community-based mercury reduction activities;
- Water conservation measures and reductions in solid waste generation; and/or
- Pharmaceuticals and solvent recovery

Opportunities for future follow-up and collaboration would be captured from the conference discussions and shared with EPA and conference participants.

This project is funded by EPA Region 2.

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