



# news @ NEWMOA

Spring 2014

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## Welcome to news@NEWMOA

news@NEWMOA is designed to help our members and colleagues keep informed about the Association's projects and activities. You are receiving this e-newsletter because you are a member of a NEWMOA working group, committee, program, or listserv; an invitee to NEWMOA events; a colleague at EPA or a related organization; connected to the Association in some other way; or have expressed interest in our work. If you have questions about the e-Newsletter, contact [Lois Makina](mailto:Lois.Makina@newmoa.org), (617) 367-8558 x312.

**Share this newsletter with others in your agency or organization that might be interested. We welcome your comments and suggestions.**

## Board of Directors

NEWMOA's [Board](#) met in March 2014 in Southbridge, Massachusetts to review the Association's current projects and share updates from EPA and state programs. This news@NEWMOA highlights many of the Board's priorities and initiatives. During the meeting, NEWMOA's Board met with the Northeast Committee on the Environment (NECOE), which involves the Commissioners from the environmental agencies in New England and New York, to discuss a number of important topics and initiatives.



## In Honor of Ira Leighton

NEWMOA has collaborated with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC), the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM), the New England state Environmental Commissioners, and the U.S. EPA Region 1 to initiate the Ira Leighton "In Service to States" Environmental Merit Award. The Award is a tribute to our long-time colleague and friend who passed away in 2013 after serving 41 years at the U.S. EPA. Ira's dedication and passion for protecting the environment was evident to all who knew him. He was a constant presence in New England; a force who took ideas and made them actionable tasks that resulted in measurable improvements. The new Award will recognize an individual or organization that has made significant strides in facilitating state and federal partnerships through innovative sustainable solutions addressing critical environmental challenges in New England. The award recipient will have actively demonstrated conviction and leadership in protecting the environment and in promoting sustainable practices. Applications for 2014 were due in February. An award ceremony will be held in April in Boston.



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## Hazardous Waste Program

### Training

Over the past few months, NEWMOA's Hazardous Waste Training Committee has held regular conference calls on such topics as:

- EPA's solvent wipes rule;
- State used-oil / waste-oil regulations;

## Welcome Topher Buck to the NEWMOA Staff

NEWMOA welcomes Topher Buck as a new Project Manager. Adam Wienert, the former

- Regulatory issues with evaporators;
- State regulation of hazardous waste treatment in tanks and containers by generators;
- Experience of states that have exercised flexibility in their hazardous waste program EPA grants; and
- Big box stores and supermarkets as hazardous waste generators.

Upcoming calls will focus on:

- Permanent household hazardous waste facilities;
- Pharmaceutical waste management;
- EPA's cathode ray tube (CRT) export rule; and
- The five most frequent violations that RCRA inspectors find.

These training calls are for state and federal hazardous waste inspectors and enforcement staff and other regulatory development and implementation staff.

## Waste Site Cleanup Program



NEWMOA and the [Brown University Superfund Research Program](#) will hold a [Communicating Risk to the Public](#) workshop on March 27 and 28 at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center in Westford, MA and Brown University in Providence, RI, respectively. The workshop will provide attendees with expert advice on risk communication in a variety of situations and will cover:

- How people think and its effect on risk communication;
- Relating risk assessment to real life;
- Delivering, controlling, and managing your message;
- Understanding today's media;
- Risk communication planning; and
- Case studies and lessons-learned recommendations.

To be added to the NEWMOA email list for notices about future waste site cleanup workshops, email [Jennifer Griffith](#).

## Pollution Prevention & Sustainability Program

### Zero Waste Connection

This spring, NEWMOA will launch a professional network of zero-waste program managers from federal, state, and local programs and independent experts who support the work of these programs. The goals of this initiative are to:

- Provide forums for zero-waste professionals to share information on program development and implementation;
- Foster innovation through the exchange of ideas in real time;
- Increase the adoption of zero-waste practices among practitioners;



Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2) Project Manager, resigned last November so that he could spend more time with his two young daughters. We greatly appreciate all of Adam's work and wish him well.

We are very excited to have Topher join us. He has an impressive background in work on ingredient disclosure and alternatives assessment. Most recently he worked for a small start-up company. From 2006 through 2011, Topher worked for [GreenBlue](#) directing their Chemicals Program and [CleanGredients®](#) project. [CleanGredients](#) is an online database of ingredient chemicals for cleaning products, each profiled according to relevant human and environmental health hazard characteristics, which provides formulators with information to make informed chemical substitution choices.

He worked as a consultant to EPA and other agencies on variety of environmental projects and a number of other groups prior to his time at GreenBlue. He was a Ph.D. student in the Energy and Resources Group at the University of California, Berkeley for several years; has a Master of Forest Science Degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and has a Bachelor's degree in chemistry and religious studies from Wesleyan University.

Topher is working full time for the IC2 managing various online database and information projects, alternatives assessment initiatives, the cleaning product ingredient disclosure effort with New York State, and initiatives to develop a multi-state approach to product disclosure and product testing.

- Increase awareness of zero-waste opportunities and resources; and
- Elevate the profile of zero-waste programs.

The site is designed to support the free exchange of information among network members through the use of a social networking platform that includes the following features:

- Discussion forums;
- Member directory with profiles;
- Groups focused on discrete zero-waste-related topics;
- Calendar of events;
- Documents and links repository; and
- Jobs board.



## Solid Waste & Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Program

### Solid Waste Data

NEWMOA has sent a letter to the U.S. EPA regarding the Agency's relatively new State Measurement Program (SMP) for gathering solid waste data from state programs. The SMP uses the [Re-TRAC](#) Connect software platform. NEWMOA's letter raised some questions about the SMP and provides suggestions for improvements. NEWMOA urged EPA to engage state programs more actively in designing upgrades to the Program. NEWMOA is planning a follow-up meeting with EPA to discuss the system and state program involvement.

### Pay-as-You-Throw

NEWMOA has partnered with several rural communities in Vermont and New Hampshire to promote "save money and reduce trash" or SMART programs. Communities across the U.S. that have implemented these programs, often called "pay-as-you-throw" (PAYT), "variable rate pricing," or "unit-based pricing," have found them to be an effective way to incentivize residents to reduce waste disposal and increase recycling. NEWMOA staff is working with targeted solid waste management authorities to educate municipal leaders, residents, solid waste haulers and facility operators, and recycling coordinators to promote the benefits of SMART. Over the coming months, NEWMOA will develop case studies and outreach materials, conduct workshops, and provide follow-up assistance with the targeted communities.

## Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2)

INTERSTATE CHEMICALS



CLEARINGHOUSE

The IC2 has published a Guide to help businesses, governments, and interested parties evaluate alternatives to toxic chemicals in products. The [IC2 Alternatives Assessment Guide](#) is designed to help create safer products and reduce the impact that chemicals have on human health and the environment.

Alternatives assessment is a process that helps companies and others consider the potential impacts alternatives could have on human health and the environment before they are used in manufacturing processes or products. IC2's members have collaboratively developed common definitions and best practices around the alternatives assessment process. This common framework is the basis for the Guide.

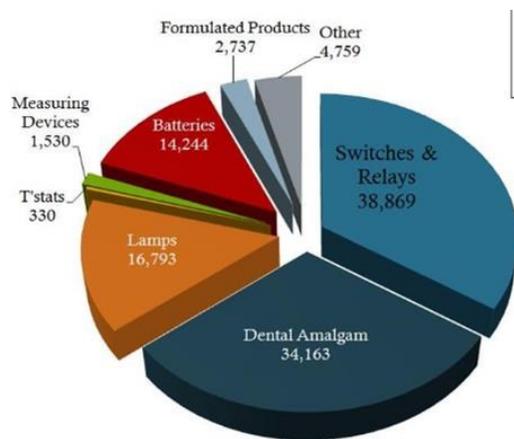
According to Maia Bellon, Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology, "This is an important tool that'll help companies identify safer materials. It's a proactive approach to help remove toxic chemicals from everyday products." According to Joe Marten, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), "Consumers are increasingly seeking ways to identify alternatives to hazardous chemicals, such as brominated flame retardants. As additional chemicals become identified as substances of concern, this Guide will serve as a useful resource for determining safer alternatives. DEC and our colleagues in other states and in the private sector see great value in creating a harmonized approach that will avoid the duplication of efforts."

Since 2011 the IC2's members have collaborated on the Guide, which is designed to help state programs and others provide technical assistance to interested companies. It supports the goals of the IC2 by avoiding duplication among member states and enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of governments through collaboration and cooperation.

## Interstate Mercury Education & Reduction Clearinghouse (IMERC)

IMERC recently published updates to its [Mercury-Added Product Fact Sheets](#) for targeted product categories, including:

- [Mercury Use in Formulated Products](#)
- [Mercury Use in Switches & Relays](#)
- [Mercury Use in Dental Amalgam](#)
- [Mercury Use in Lighting](#)
- [Mercury Use in Measuring Devices](#)
- [Mercury Use in Thermostats](#)
- [Mercury Use in Batteries](#)
- [Mercury Use in Pumps](#)
- [Mercury Use in Gas & Electric Cooking Ranges & Other Cooking Equipment](#)



Total Mercury Use in 2010: 56.71 tons

The Fact Sheets summarize the data provided by manufacturers and distributors of mercury-added products to the IMERC-member states in compliance with the state [Notification](#) requirements. They include a trends analysis of mercury use in each product category sold in the U.S.; the amount of mercury used in the products; why mercury has been or continues to be used in the products; manufacturers that have phased-out the use of mercury in their products; and other useful information.

NEWMOA has also prepared a [Summary Fact Sheet](#) that presents an analysis of mercury use in all of the product categories covered by the Fact Sheets listed above. The data summary shows that overall mercury use in products sold in the U.S. decreased by approximately 56 percent from 2001 to 2010. With the exception of the batteries and formulated products categories, all of the targeted products show significant declines in mercury use during this decade.

In the coming months, IMERC expects to update these Fact Sheets further by:

- Expanding the information on collection and recycling programs for product categories, identifying limitations where known; and
- Incorporating an analysis of the 2013 triennial data for certain product categories, where complete data is available.

[IMERC](#) has started to receive submissions of 2013 triennial notification forms through its [e-filing system](#) from manufacturers and distributors of mercury-added products. Notification through the system enables firms to comply with the Mercury-added Product Notification requirements of CT, LA, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, and VT. Reporting is mandatory for any company that sold or distributed mercury-added products into the states listed above during calendar year 2013. The reporting window is January through April 2014.

## Summit on Lean & Process Improvement for Environmental Agencies

With a small amount of seed funding from the Northeast states, NEWMOA has planned a ["Summit on Lean & Process Improvement for Environmental Agencies in the Northeast"](#) for May 28, 2014 at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Offices in Hartford, CT. The Summit will:

- Provide a forum for exchanging success stories, results, tools, and information;
- Facilitate sharing of projects that are improving performance and delivering value; and
- Identify opportunities for coordination and collaboration.

Invitees include northeast state and federal environmental and related agency managers and staff involved with and interested in [Lean](#) and other approaches to improving efficiency; and various interstate organizations. The Summit is open to state officials from other agencies that work with environmental agencies, including laboratories and transportation and public health departments.

## Sustainable Compliance Results Workgroup

NEWMOA recently formed a "Sustainable Compliance Results Workgroup" to facilitate collaboration among the northeast states and with EPA Regions 1 and 2 on promoting the use of a variety of approaches to

advancing, monitoring, and enforcing compliance with regulatory requirements and measuring results. The new group will focus on:

- Sharing lessons learned and tools;
- Creating a common understanding of basic principles and concepts;
- Communicating success stories to build stakeholder support; and
- Expanding support for various compliance monitoring and performance measurement approaches and strategies to promote their wider use and institutional acceptance.

The regional group is designed to help northeast environmental agencies learn about and implement a variety of compliance monitoring and performance measurement tools through:

- Networking;
- Organizing information-sharing webinars and conference calls;
- Coordinating on program development; and
- Conducting joint multi-jurisdictional projects, if funding is available.

The Workgroup held its first conference call in February and is planning follow-up activities.

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*To develop, lead, and sustain an effective partnership of states that helps achieve a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment by exploring, developing, promoting, and implementing environmentally sound solutions for:*

- *Reducing materials use and preventing pollution and waste;*
- *Properly reusing and recycling discarded materials that have value;*
- *Safely managing solid and hazardous wastes; and*
- *Remediating contaminated sites.*

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