



Webinar Series: Conducting Carbon Footprint Assessments Session 2: Carbon Footprints Step-by-Step

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**Sponsored by:
Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association
Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center**

NEWMOA - Background

- NE states have a long history of working regionally
- Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association:
 - hazardous & solid waste
 - pollution prevention & toxics
 - waste site cleanup
- Members: CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT

Why Prepare a Regional Climate - Waste Plan?

- 2007 request from New England Governors' Conference Environment Committee: How will the NE interstates' programs help achieve regional climate change goals?
- Addressing climate change is the Environmental Commissioners' highest priority

National MSW Picture

- **254 million tons**
- **4.6 pounds per person/day**
- **63 million tons recycled**
- **22 million tons composted**
- **Recovery rate ~33%**

(Source: US EPA, 2007)

Industrial Waste

- **Non-hazardous industrial/commercial waste NE/year:~1.1 billion tons (e.g., paper, plastic, pallets, equipment, packaging)**
- **~2.19 million tons of hazardous waste generated in the Northeast in 2007**

(Source: US EPA)

Waste & Greenhouse Gases (GHG)

- **35 - 46% of GHGs can be attributed to the provision of good & materials** (Source: US EPA)
- **Activities that contribute to GHG emissions:**
 - raw material extraction
 - transportation
 - processing & manufacturing
 - shipping of goods

Embodied Energy

- **“Embodied energy” - the amount of energy required to manufacture & supply to the point of use a product, materials, or service**
- **Need to estimate “embodied energy” for materials & products**

Guiding Principles

- **Interstate collaboration is necessary**
- **Focus on products/materials with biggest climate impacts (based on full life cycle)**
- **Minimize energy consumption & GHGs from waste**

Guiding Principles

- **Avoid unintended consequences**
- **Seize opportunities for renewable energy development & use**
- **Consider waste management in climate change adaptation plans**

Strategies

- **Minimize life cycle GHG impacts of products & waste**
- **Increase waste reuse & recycling**
- **Reduce methane emissions from landfills**
- **Increase public awareness**

Strategies

- **Improve data on the climate-waste connection**
- **Facilitate renewable energy development on waste sites**
- **Promote “green” cleanups of hazardous waste sites**
- **Improve planning for disaster debris management**

Actions to Assist States:

- **work on product stewardship**
- **advance design for the environment concepts, green chemistry, and green engineering**
- **utilize their purchasing power to promote source reduction & use more sustainable materials.**
- **advance the practical applications of waste prevention, zero waste and/or beyond waste**
- **become more knowledgeable of methods to evaluate the carbon foot print of products/materials**

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**[www.newmoa.org/publications/
NEWMOAClimate-WasteActionPlan.pdf](http://www.newmoa.org/publications/NEWMOAClimate-WasteActionPlan.pdf)**