

Regional Green Chemistry & Green Engineering Initiative

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N E W M O A



Overview

- Background
- Current activities
- Recommendations
- Next Steps?

Background

- EPA Region 1 convened New England leaders in green chemistry during the summer & fall of 2010
- A strategic plan was agreed upon & structure for moving forward
- A coordinating committee formed, chaired by Curt Spalding, US EPA & John Warner, Warner Babcock Institute

What is Green Chemistry?

- Green Chemistry provides a framework for a sustainable future by adopting safer practices & using less hazardous & non-toxic chemicals.
- Green chemistry is the design of chemical products & processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances.

What is Green Chemistry?

- Green chemistry applies across the life cycle of a chemical product, including its design, manufacture, & use
- www.beyondbenign.org
- www.warnerbabcock.com
- www.epa.gov/gcc/pubs/epa_gc.html

NE GC Challenge - Mission

The overarching mission for the New England Green Chemistry Challenge is to broaden the understanding & adoption of green chemistry practices & principles in business, education, government, health care, & society as a catalyst to grow a sustainable economy in New England & beyond

NE GC Challenge - Goals

- Understanding the interrelationship of green chemistry & sustainability
- Supporting a transformative dialogue about new ways to achieve a safe & green economy
- Fostering a NE economy that is based on local resources, labor force, research capacity, & expert knowledge

Working Groups

6 Strategic Groups:

- Government
- Production & Work (Business)
- Investment & Development
- Education
- Advocacy (Non-Government Organizations)
- Healthcare

Government Workgroup

- Formed Working Group
- Includes NJ DEP & NYS DEC representatives
- Inventory of government green chemistry & green engineering activities in last 5 years
- Develop list of priority projects

Inventory for NJ & NY

- University-based initiatives
- IC2 & IMERC membership
- Publications & websites
- Environmentally preferable purchasing
- Onsite assistance
- Example Sectors: hospitality, dry cleaners, auto, & marinas

Recommended Projects

- Integration of GC & GE into existing state agency capacity across appropriate programs
- GC & GE Awards & Challenge Program
- Social Media / Topic Hub

Recommended Projects

- ORD & NE Partnership for Developing Greener, Safer, & Sustainable Chemistries
- Partnership for Standardizing & Validating GC & GE Alternatives
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Information, Lessons Learned, & Metrics

Recent Steps

- NEWMOA newsletter - www.newmoa.org/prevention/newsletter.cfm
- NEWMOA applied for P2Rx \$\$ to develop social media resource
- See www.epa.gov/region1/greenchemistry/index.html

Next Steps

- Holding GC Science Workshop - June 13-14 @ EPA Region 1 Offices in Boston - www.epa.gov/region1/greenchemistry/scienceworkshop.html
- Developing a strategy paper that covers 6 Workgroups
- Identify possible funding
- Implement projects