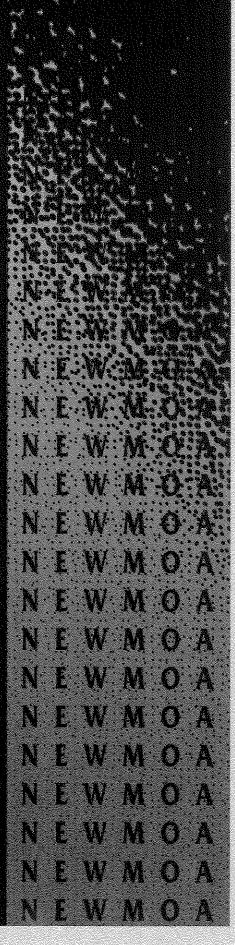
NEWMOA

The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association

7996

ANNUAL REPORT





From the Chair

NEWMOA Begins Another Decade of Service

This year NEWMOA quietly marked the completion of its first decade of service to its member states. When I look back over the Association's history, I'm impressed not only with our accomplishments, but also with our ability to influence change in our states' environmental protection agendas. Over the past ten years, the states have established environmental standards, issued hundreds of facility-specific permits, and instituted inspection programs to ensure regulatory compliance. We have secured numerous hazardous waste sites that posed serious threats to public health and the environment. And we have upgraded our solid waste management practices.

- A decade ago, we were concerned with state-federal roles in the cleanup of major
 Superfund sites. Today, we are conducting information-based programs to improve state voluntary site cleanup programs, foster the redevelopment of brownfields, and secure environmental justice in our cities.
- A decade ago, our hazardous waste programs were engaged in enforcement cases involving significant violations, and our solid waste programs were focused on the safe and timely
 closure of hundreds of substandard landfills. Today, the most serious hazardous waste sites
 have been secured, and most major facilities are in compliance with environmental laws.
- A decade ago, the transfer of contaminants from one medium to another was accepted as an inevitable part of the environmental control process, and the concept of pollution prevention, as currently understood, did not exist. Today, we know that removing pollutants from the air or water, only to reintroduce them into another medium, is unacceptable. While enforcement remains a top priority, we are investing significant resources in promoting pollution prevention as a way of doing business.

We know that this is not enough. The public and the business community are demanding that we improve traditional regulatory programs and operate them more efficiently. At the same time, they are calling for clear, meaningful information about the condition of the environment and realistic options for addressing such problems as the widespread release of toxics and global warming. Meeting these challenges will depend, more than ever before, on an informed public making the right lifestyle, consumer, and business decisions. Better information to support this effort has become a priority in its own right.

Indeed, we are in the midst of a major effort to redefine environmental goals, solutions, and measures of success. As you will observe from this report, NEWMOA is very much involved in supporting these state efforts. In my view, this is an especially important element of the Association's work as we begin a new decade in which information and its effective communication will make all of the difference.

I'm proud to have been part of this process, and I thank you most sincerely for your support during my term as NEWMOA chair. I have no doubt that, with your continued support, NEWMOA will make significant new contributions as it begins its second decade of service.



NEWMOA's Mission



The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA) is a nonprofit, non-partisan, interstate association. The membership is composed of state environmental agency directors of the hazardous waste, solid waste, waste site cleanup, and pollution prevention (P2) programs in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

NEWMOA was established in 1986 by the governors of the New England states as an official interstate regional organization, in accordance with Section 1005 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The organization was formally recognized by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the same year.

NEWMOA's mission is to help states articulate, promote, and implement economically sound regional programs for the enhancement of environmental protection. It fulfills this mission by providing a variety of support services that facilitate communication and cooperation among member states and between the states and EPA, and that promote the efficient sharing of state and federal program resources.

To these ends, NEWMOA serves as a vehicle for:

- Developing Unified Policy Positions
- Facilitating Regional Strategies
- Information Sharing
- Training and Education

Highlights of Fiscal 1996 Activities

Organized Performance Partnerships Workshop

Working with its regional air and water counterparts, the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC), NEWMOA organized a day-long meeting between EPA and state officials to facilitate the transition to the Performance Partnership Program. This program seeks to greatly increase the states' discretion to use federal funds for local priorities.

Launched Interstates' Regional Mercury Study

Again working in partnership with NESCAUM and NEIWPCC, NEWMOA continued to make progress on a regional study of mercury deposition. This analysis examines the nature and extent of mercury contamination in the region and identifies strategies for controlling the problem. The study, together with an action plan, will be available in 1997.

Opposed the Defense Department's Proposed Sale of Mercury

Upon learning of the Defense Department's intention to sell 11 million pounds of mercury, NEWMOA sent a letter of opposition to the DOD Secretary and EPA Administrator. The letter cited the enormous environmental damage and remediation costs that member states could experience from the improper handling of mercury.

Managed Annual Training and Technology Transfer Conference

Continuing a tradition begun more than 15 years ago, NEWMOA again conducted its two-day Training and Technology Transfer Conference. The event drew a record number of attendees and featured presentations by senior EPA officials as well as many state and EPA technical staff.

Supported a Regional Approach on EPA's Universal Waste Rule

In 1996, the NEWMOA states signed a formal letter of intent to work together to develop complementary universal waste policies and programs and to establish a cooperative effort with various private sector entities. NEWMOA also supported state program development efforts.

Conducted States-EPA Brownfields Conference

With EPA Region I as its co-sponsor, NEWMOA managed a day-long conference addressing the many technical and policy issues involved in the cleanup and beneficial reuse of contaminated sites. The agenda emphasized community participation, environmental justice, and other stakeholder concerns.

Developing Unified Policy Positions



With the recent growth in interstate activities and the devolvement of environmental leader-ship from the federal to the state level, the importance and benefits of regional collaboration have increased. NEWMOA provides its states with opportunities—through conference calls, meetings, and other vehicles—to work together in a way that minimizes their individual use of limited staff and financial resources, while maximizing their contributions to legislative, regulatory, and other issues.

This section briefly describes some of the major policy positions the NEWMOA states developed in fiscal 1996. Those positions have enabled our state environmental programs to share their experience as regulators in a way that can assist national policymakers and produce explicit environmental benefits.

Hazardous Waste Identification Rule

NEWMOA has participated in the Hazardous Waste Identification Rule (HWIR) development process since 1992, when EPA first sought public input on alternative mechanisms for de-listing certain hazardous wastes. In fiscal 1996, the central issue for the NEWMOA states was EPA's proposal to allow generators to make their own determinations about de-listings, especially in the absence of clear, readily identified exit criteria. NEWMOA has consistently maintained that a streamlined, EPA-operated de-listing program that emphasizes pollution prevention is the best solution for environmental protection and for the regulated community.

As the court-ordered deadline approached for this controversial rulemaking, NEWMOA brought representatives from EPA Headquarters and Region I together with member states to help participants better understand each other's perspectives. NEWMOA then drew up comments that were discussed in a series of telephone conferences, which in turn were used to develop a consensus-based letter submitted to the EPA Docket. Because of NEWMOA's contribution to this process, EPA Headquarters has invited the Association to participate directly in developing a proposal for state-based management of low-hazard wastes.

Management of Contaminated Media

In fiscal 1996, NEWMOA also commented on EPA's proposed requirements for managing contaminated media, which includes soil, construction materials, and other debris that contain listed hazardous waste. This aspect of the Hazardous Waste Identification Rule is being addressed separately because it relates to the classification and management of media at primarily state-supervised site cleanup locations, rather than wastes generated as a by-product of current industrial processes. For this reason, NEWMOA helped to ensure that state representatives of both hazardous waste and waste site cleanup programs were involved in developing the consensus position.

In its proposal, EPA sought to establish two classes of contaminated media. The more highly contaminated class would remain subject to hazardous waste regulatory provisions, while the less contaminated class would be managed at the discretion of authorized state waste site cleanup programs. NEWMOA's consensus position, throughout this rule development process, states that EPA should authorize responsible state waste site cleanup programs to determine how contaminated media should be managed on site.

Sale of Mercury Stockpiles

NEWMOA was one of the first groups in the country to oppose the US Department of Defense (DOD) proposal to sell 11 million pounds of stockpiled mercury. NEWMOA quickly issued a letter to the Secretary of Defense and EPA Administrator citing the obvious negative impacts of this activity. The Board of Directors has significant experience with the problems

created by the improper handling of mercury, which can cause enormous environmental damage and even higher remediation costs.

NEWMOA's letter called for the suspension of mercury sales and for consultation with interested parties to develop a permanent alternative to the sales, as well as methods to minimize the non-essential uses of mercury. Ultimately, DOD determined its environmental analysis required additional work and acknowledged the need for more collaboration with EPA and for interested parties and the public to review the analysis. To date, DOD has not conducted any mercury sales.



Presenter at the Annual Training Conference

Transport of Hazardous Waste

In a letter to EPA Administrator Browner, NEWMOA strongly supported the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYS DEC's) petition for

EPA rulemaking to govern hazardous waste transportation-related activities. New York's petition followed closely after the US Department of Transportation (DOT) rendered an administrative decision that certain NYS DEC regulations should be preempted under the Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act (HMTUSA).

For several years, NEWMOA has worked with the Alliance for Uniform Hazmat (hazardous materials) Transportation Procedures as the organization has developed a model for state hazardous materials transportation programs. NEWMOA and its Directors recommended that the model recognize the different approaches called for when regulating hazardous wastes, as distinguished from the broader category of hazardous materials regulated under HMTUSA. The NEWMOA states, along with other states, convinced the Alliance to include provisions in the model program that would preserve the states' ability to ensure that only safe, reliable operators are allowed to haul hazardous wastes.

Facilitating Regional Strategies

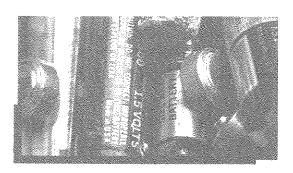
Introduction of new legislation or regulations, an unforeseen obstacle to an upcoming program, and countless other events can trigger the need for a regional strategy. By working together to think through possible impacts of changes and to identify opportunities for coordinated action, the NEWMOA states are often able to devise more effective approaches than if they act singly.

ANNIVE ARY

During fiscal 1996, NEWMOA's regional efforts focused primarily on state implementation of EPA rules, a prospective approach on mercury management and reduction, long-term cooperative projects, and planning for significant changes in federal funding. Each of these activities has contributed significantly to improvements in environmental management and program implementation across the NEWMOA states.

Universal Waste Program Implementation

In mid-1995, EPA published its final rule on universal wastes, a program to improve the management of common wastes, including mercury-containing batteries and thermostats as well as certain pesticides. The rule regulates collection, transportation, and recycling activities in a way that is less demanding than the full hazardous waste regulatory requirements.



During fiscal 1996, NEWMOA made noteworthy progress in developing state approaches to this rule, including a letter of intent signed by the NEWMOA Directors agreeing to develop complementary implementation programs. The Directors recognized that the proposal, adoption, and authorization of such state programs will be time-consuming and have broad regional implications. In addition, they agreed that the objectives of the rule are generally beneficial to the region, providing improved environmental protection as well as savings for taxpayers and

consumers. The Directors also anticipated that this agreement would facilitate development of private collection and recycling programs for various universal wastes. NEWMOA will continue to help the states develop complementary and functional programs for universal wastes in the next fiscal year.

Reducing Mercury Contamination

NEWMOA collaborated with NESCAUM and NEIWPCC on a regional study on mercury, which examines the nature and extent of deposition in the region and offers strategies for addressing the problem. During the year, NEWMOA began researching current state policies and programs to reduce emissions and releases from major sources of this persistent and bioaccumulative pollutant. The study is scheduled for release in 1997, and will be accompanied by an action plan outlining future regional and state programs to address mercury contamination.

Scrap Tire Management

In another ongoing project, NEWMOA has worked with its member states and several outside experts to manage the region's stockpile of scrap tires—currently estimated at 88 million, with an additional 39 million tires added each year. During fiscal 1996, NEWMOA focused on translating the comprehensive information it had collected and models it had developed into improved state approaches.

NEWMOA coordinated with state contacts to identify implementation issues and information needs. The Association also assisted the states with their implementation activities, including coordinating environmental agency actions with other relevant state agencies (e.g., motor vehicles, fire, police), tracking transporters, sharing enforcement approaches and actions, determining abatement and response cost data, and researching appropriate reuses of scrap tires. NEWMOA will distribute a formal collection of program strategies and approaches to the states in fiscal 1997.

Performance Partnership Program

Starting in 1995, the federal government began to reform the way EPA funds environmental programs that it authorizes states to operate. This program, called the "Performance Partnership," moves EPA much closer to a block grant approach. The benefit of this shift is that the states have greater flexibility to apply resources to their unique high-priority issues.

To facilitate communications between the states and EPA during this major funding change, NEWMOA and its sister associations, NESCAUM and NEIWPCC, organized a one-day meeting of EPA and state environmental program managers. During the meeting, state and EPA officials met in small groups to work on key issues, such as public involvement in the Performance Partnership Program and establishment of appropriate environmental goals and indicators.

Reducing Hazardous Air Pollutants

With support from the EPA Environmental Technology Initiative, NEWMOA and NESCAUM undertook a project in fiscal 1996 to promote a preventative approach to air pollution in the region. This multi-year project seeks to build consensus among the states on integrating pollution prevention into air permitting for specific industry sources. The project involves researching available P2 technologies and developing joint activities that address public and private barriers to adoption of P2 approaches.

Information Sharing

Different people like to communicate information in different ways—whether face-to-face, electronically, or in print. Because information sharing is fundamental to its mission, NEWMOA continues to work hard to provide access to new materials through all of these channels.

Workgroup Meetings

As in the past, NEWMOA encourages information sharing by organizing regular quarterly meetings of the solid and hazardous waste, waste site cleanup, and pollution prevention program directors. In addition, the Association currently runs more than ten workgroups that meet periodically and conduct conference calls. These workgroups generally focus on such projects as writing reports, organizing workshops, and commenting on federal proposals. Workgroups also provide an opportunity for state environmental agency staff to learn more about each other's activities and to share ideas.

Periodic workgroup conference calls are augmented by surveys on special issues. For example, the states' solid waste programs were interested in sharing technical and regulatory information on medical wastes and waste flow. NEWMOA responded by conducting surveys, compiling the results and other materials, and distributing them to the states.

Information Clearinghouse

This year NEWMOA added approximately 1,000 documents to the Northeast Pollution Prevention Clearinghouse. These new materials focus on key industry sectors in the Northeast, including metal finishing and paint coatings, wood finishing, printing, and auto repair.

The Clearinghouse is a resource for the NEWMOA member states and local agencies, consultants, businesses and the public. NEWMOA manages the Clearinghouse by maintaining a database of all documents, which facilitates quick retrieval and responses to information requests. This year NEWMOA combined its database with those of nine state and local P2 programs, creating a database of more than than 12,000 documents called P2Info. This database will be available on the Internet in fiscal 1997.

Energy and Environmental Program Meeting

In recent years, there has been phenomenal growth in the number and size of programs helping small companies improve their energy and environmental performance as well as compliance with environmental regulations. With funding and help from EPA Region I and the US Department of Energy, NEWMOA organized a "summit meeting" for all the assistance groups in New England to encourage networking, cooperation, and group problem-solving.

This was the first event to bring together energy and environmental assistance programs, which tend to operate very independently. The agenda consisted largely of small group discussions on topics the state programs had identified as priorities in a pre-conference survey. The second day of the meeting featured four half-day, skill-building workshops. NEWMOA also collected basic information on each program and compiled this material in a comprehensive directory, *Guide to Energy and Environmental Assistance Programs in New England*.



Computer Exhibit at Annual Training Conference

Databases & Electronic Resources

NEWMOA initiated a second database project in 1996 called P2 Experts. Now available on the Internet through EPA's Enviro\$en\$e, the database provides a quick, convenient way for small businesses to locate expertise to address their particular P2 needs. This database includes private sector professionals—academic researchers, consultants, and industry representatives—with expertise in pollution prevention and related fields. NEWMOA will continue to solicit additions and manage the database at least through 1997.

NEWMOA also began a pilot project called P2Print, which is employing innovative electronic methods for providing P2 information directly to the printing industry in the Northeast. Supported in part by the US EPA's Environmental Technology Initiative, this project includes development of a comprehensive database of P2 information for printers; an e-mail based forum linking printers, technical experts, and assistance programs; and a CD-ROM system enabling printers to answer specific questions relating to their unique situations. These products should be available in 1997.

In addition to those mentioned above, NEWMOA prepared a variety of reports and publications in 1995-96.

These include:

Pollution Prevention and Profitability: A Primer for Lenders Explains how pollution prevention

projects can enhance traditional loan evaluation criteria as an indicator of management competence and generator of cost savings.

Northeast States Pollution Prevention Roundtable: Directory of Participating Programs

Provides comprehensive address and telephone information for all federal, state, and local P2 programs in the region,

Results of a Survey on Integration of Pollution Prevention into State Regulatory Activities

Summarizes the pollution prevention integration activities recently initiated in the Northeast.

P2 for Metal Finishing & Metal Coatings Manuals for Technical Assistance Providers

Provides a comprehensive review of technical options for P2 in the metal finishing and metal coatings industries. To be published in 1997.

P2 for Wood Finishing

Offers guidance on compliance with new EPA air standards for wood finishing through pollution prevention techniques. To be published jointly with NESCAUM in 1997.

Training & Education

Training programs have been a cornerstone of NEWMOA's activities from its earliest days. In fact, the impetus for creating a formal organization of state waste management officials came from a small conference that was held annually in New Hampshire, starting more than 15 years ago. This event has evolved over time into the **Annual NEWMOA/EPA Training and**



Opening Session at Annual Training Conference

Technology Transfer Conference—our largest and most ambitious education effort of the year.

In 1996, attendance at the two-day conference hit 200 for the first time. The agenda covered a number of policy and technical issues in the four major NEWMOA program areas. Among the presenters were John DeVillars, Administrator, EPA Region I-New England; Sylvia Lowrance, EPA Deputy Assistant Administrator; Mike Shapiro, Director of EPA's Office of Solid Waste; Stephen Luftig, Director of EPA's

Office of Emergency and Remedial Response; and Tom Kennedy, Executive Director of ASTSWMO. Other speakers included several senior managers and staff from state and EPA environmental programs, as well as from other public and private organizations.

States and EPA Program Managers Roundtable

NEWMOA and the EPA Region I and II offices sponsored a meeting to discuss issues related to EPA's budget downsizing. The event included a number of roundtable discussions, followed by workshops to develop recommendations for follow-up by states, EPA, and NEWMOA. Topics included current solid waste, hazardous waste, waste site cleanup, and pollution prevention issues with an emphasis on cross-program challenges.

Technical Workshops

NEWMOA also presents special workshops on technical topics. This year's focus was on new developments in pollution prevention and waste site cleanup. For example, NEWMOA conducted a two-day workshop on new technologies for reducing emissions from paper and soft plastic surface coating operations. This session featured speakers from industry, a video tape, case presentations, and a visit to a local coatings company that had successfully implemented a new system to eliminate hazardous air emissions and wastes.

Pollution Prevention Workshops

Over the past 10 years, NEWMOA has developed innovative training on many pollution prevention topics. This year the group built on this experience by offering its workshops to new audiences. For example, NEWMOA and the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute sponsored a three-day workshop on managing teams and facilitating group problem-solving. This interactive session was attended by 15 state and local government officials.

In addition, NEWMOA presented its unique curriculum on financial analysis of pollution prevention projects to the Small Business Development Center staff in Vermont, which assists

companies in improving their business management systems. The workshop focused on helping small businesses better understand environmental costs and how to reduce these costs through pollution prevention.

Pilot Workshops

NEWMOA developed and piloted two new workshops during fiscal 1996. The first was delivered at the EPA Region I computer training lab, and provided hands-on instruction on using the Internet and electronic databases to research pollution prevention information. To support this session, NEWMOA also drafted a written guide to accessing P2 information electronically.

The second pilot was designed to teach permitters how to identify pollution prevention opportunities and include them in permits. NEWMOA collaborated with Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance staff on a slide presentation for this one-day session. Over 25 state per-

mitters participated in the pilot workshop and provided valuable ideas and suggestions for future training sessions for this audience.

Reinventing Environmental Protection Conference

The Pollution Prevention Consortium of New England Universities, which NEWMOA manages, held a "Reinventing Environmental Protection" conference at Harvard University. Over 150 participants heard presentations by leading pollution prevention experts and participated in sessions organized into three tracks—Student Actions, Business Successes, and Emerging Issues. The sessions featured lively and engaging presentations on research by 30 graduate and undergraduate students.

DOD-Sponsored Training

The P2 Consortium also completed a multi-year training program for former defense industry employees and disadvantaged students. This US Department of Defense-sponsored project included the development of an undergraduate curriculum on pollution prevention for disadvantaged students at Brown University; the publication of homework problems to use in undergraduate engineering courses; a pollution prevention training session for former defense industry employees through Minuteman Technical School; and pollution prevention training for disadvantaged students through the University of New Hampshire. The P2 Consortium is now making the curricula available to teachers in other parts of the country.

Brownfields Conference

During 1996, NEWMOA and EPA Region I co-sponsored a day-long conference covering the many technical and policy issues involved in the cleanup and reuse of brownfields. The agenda emphasized community participation, environmental justice, and other stakeholder concerns. Presenters included representatives from the insurance, banking and utility industries; environmental and citizen interest groups; and state and EPA programs.

NEWMOA Funding

NEWMOA relies on four principal sources for funding. The first and original source is state dues. Most member states request that their EPA region make a portion of their RCRA state hazardous waste program assistance funds available as a dues payment, in the form of a grant to NEWMOA. The specific amount is determined on the basis of population. New York, however, elects to pay its annual dues directly to NEWMOA.

EPA grants for solid waste activities constitute the second source of funds. These grants are usually awarded annually. The third source is grants for pollution prevention programs, awarded by EPA Regions I and II, EPA Headquarters and, occasionally, by other agencies and institutions. Last year, NEWMOA also received funding for specific pollution prevention activities from such sources as the US Department of Defense and the US Department of Energy.

Contributions from member states in the form of grants and contracts make up the fourth source of funding. Several states contribute directly to fund projects of particular interest, as well as to support NEWMOA's solid waste, pollution prevention, and waste site clean-up programs.

NEWMOA'S Balance Sheet

Oct. 1, 1995 to Sept. 30, 1996

Revenue	Expenditures
State Dues & Contributions	Staff Support & Related Expenses \$449,294
Grants*	Travel 30,176
Other Grants/Contracts 190,673	Training & Workshops 72,925
Miscellaneous 15,794	Contracts** 170,693
TOTAL	Office 140,160
	Miscellaneous 4,629
	TOTAL \$866,977

Excess of expenditures over revenue (\$40,253) was paid from NEWMOA's fund reserves/fund balance.

^{*}Includes an additional \$70,000 in state dues.

^{**}Primarily supports subgrantee educational institutions conducting P2 education.

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