

NEWMOA Pollution Prevention & Compliance Assistance Metrics Software

The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA)¹ has been facilitating a regional project to develop and implement a set of metrics for states to use in tracking their pollution prevention (P2) and compliance assistance (CA) programs' activities and their associated outcomes. The participating state programs believe that it is important to work together to develop a consistent way to measure the impacts of P2 and CA efforts to:

- effectively communicate program activities and accomplishments to policy makers
- improve program management
- measure progress toward goals
- provide program funders with relevant activity and outcome information
- influence policy development

The *Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance Metrics Software* was developed in Microsoft Access and is available in Access versions 2002 and 2000. The current version of the program, Version 2.5 was issued in April 2004. The software is designed to stand alone so each state or local CA or P2 program controls its own data, and is not a single centrally-located database. However, because programs are all using the same software, data could be gathered and aggregated across programs in the future. The database contains capacity to record information about program activities in each of four areas: Project for a Client; Production of Educational Material; Workshops/Conference; and Response to Information Request.

The database also contains areas to record the outcome information collected about the changes that occur at recipients of program services or activities. Changes can be behavioral, regulatory, or pollutant/use reductions. Programs can gather outcome information through a survey (for example, by telephone, e-mail, or in-person), often well after the end of the activity. Three of the four activity tracks have associated outcome forms: Client Project Outcome; Educational Material Outcome; Workshops/Conferences Outcome.

The software also includes a limited number of output reports that aggregate the data - one for each of the four activity and three outcome areas. These seven general reports are interactive where users can choose to narrow the data set from which the report is generated by specifying a date range, a funding source, and/or a NAICs code.

NEWMOA has developed a data dictionary and a Users manual to support implementation and use of the software application. NEWMOA also maintains a listserv, P2-CA Measures to provide a national forum to discuss P2 and CA program measurement, including issues regarding NEWMOA's *Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance Metrics Software*. Listserv membership is limited to those working for government-affiliated programs. All recipients of NEWMOA's software are automatically added to the listserv so they can be easily kept up-to-date with any changes made to the software.

For more information about the database or to obtain a copy, please contact Terri Goldberg at NEWMOA at (617) 367-8558, ext. 302 or tgoldberg@newmoa.org.

¹ NEWMOA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan interstate association whose membership is composed of the hazardous waste, solid waste, waste site cleanup, and pollution prevention program directors for the environmental agencies in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.