

TECHNOLOGY CAFÉ: SESSION A

3 U.S. EPA's Waste Estimation Support Tool (WEST)

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EPA's Waste Estimation Support Tool (WEST) is a GIS-based decision support tool for estimating the characteristics, amount, and residual contaminants of waste generated from remediation and cleanup activities after a biological or radiological contamination incident. WEST consists of a GIS module that estimates the infrastructure and urban surfaces affected by a wide-area contaminant release, and a calculator module that estimates waste amounts and characteristics as a function of decontamination approaches. WEST has been released to the public and has been used in numerous national level exercises and planning scenarios; however, it continues to be improved and refined to add additional functionality and performance. The most recent version of WEST included the ability to substitute the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) infrastructure databases that WEST normally uses with user-defined infrastructure databases so that communities with high resolution infrastructure databases or international partners could use WEST.
