



National NEMO Network

(Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials)

Overview

The National NEMO Network is a confederation of programs that educate local land use decision makers about the links between land use and natural resource protection. Network programs are patterned after the original Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Program developed at the University of Connecticut, but each program is a unique entity, typically operated as a multi-organizational consortium. The University based USDA Land Grant and NOAA Sea Grant systems are the most common institutional homes of NEMO programs, although lead organizations also include state agencies and nonprofit groups. These programs, now numbering 31 in 30 states (see map on back), have joined together of their own accord to create a unique national network that is sharing information, educational methods and technical tools across state and agency lines.



Contact the NEMO Network

David Dickson, *Network Coordinator*
Email: david.dickson@uconn.edu
Phone: (860) 345-5228

Kara Bonsack, *Network Communicator*
Email: kara.bonsack@uconn.edu
Phone: (860) 345-5227

National NEMO Network Website

nemonet.uconn.edu

Contact CLEAR

University of Connecticut, CES
P.O. Box 70
1066 Saybrook Road
Haddam, CT 06438

Phone: (860) 345-4511
Fax: (860) 345-3357
Email: clear@uconn.edu
Web Address: clear.uconn.edu

What is NEMO?

The NEMO Program was created in 1991 at the University of Connecticut as a partnership between the Cooperative Extension System, the Connecticut Sea Grant College Program and the Natural Resources Management and Engineering Department. NEMO has a tight focus on local land use decision makers as the target audience, seeking to help them understand the links between the decisions that they make and the quality of their water (and other) resources. (See the NEMO Program fact sheet for more information.)

The Birth of the Network

By 1995, Connecticut NEMO staff began to conduct workshops to assist their colleagues in other states to plan, organize and initiate

NEMO adaptations. By 1997, with the number of NEMO programs growing and with the advice of an Interagency Work Group that included USDA, NOAA, EPA and NASA, the idea of a national network began to take hold. In October 2000, 15 NEMO programs from across the country met for the first time to share experiences and expertise, and to discuss ways to better collaborate. It was during this first NEMO conference, dubbed NEMO University or "NEMO U," that the National NEMO Network was truly founded.

NEMO Programs are Diverse

Institutional makeup, geographic coverage, topical focus, methodology, funding and staffing vary from state to state. Network programs are united by the principles set forth in the National NEMO Network



(Map above) the National Network members' map shows network membership throughout the U.S. at various levels of activity.

The Network "Hub" organizes a conference every other year called NEMO University. The purpose of the conference is to facilitate networking and learning between programs. (Below) attendees of this year's NEMO U7 pose for a group photo. The conference was held in Portland, Maine September 29 - October 1, 2010.



Charter, a document each new program signs that states the vision, guiding principles and responsibilities of being a part of the Network. All Network programs share these few key elements:

- (1.) The method is education.
- (2.) The topic is natural resource-based land use planning and site design.
- (3.) The target audience is local land use decision makers.
- (4.) The educational messages are enhanced by the use of geospatial technology.

Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts

Why a national network? First, because no one has the corner on good ideas! Community leaders need as many effective and innovative approaches as possible as they struggle to balance economic growth with natural resource protection and preservation of community character.

Second, because those few groups working in the arena of land use education need the assistance and support of their colleagues. Land use is largely a

local issue, so federal and state agencies have few programs that directly address land use or the education of local officials.

In order to create effective educational programs, NEMO educators need access to resources and expertise that may not exist in their home institutions or state. The National NEMO Network allows for the transfer of innovation and information so that it can benefit the people who will actually make the difference—land use decision makers.

Coordination of a National Network

Coordination of the Network comes from the Network Hub located in the Department of Extension at the University of Connecticut. Drawing on the expertise of CLEAR team members, the Network Hub provides presentations, publications, impact reports, communications, and coordinates workshops, training and networking opportunities. The ability to share experiences, educational resources and publications has proved invaluable for many programs, helping them to jumpstart new educational modules and grow their educational efforts.

The National NEMO Network is a group of affiliated projects that educate local land use decision makers about the relationship of land use to natural resource protection. The Network is coordinated by the University of Connecticut Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Program, with funding from USDA/CRSEES. The National NEMO Network is a program of the Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR). Land, Sea and Space Grant collaborating. For more information about CLEAR, visit clear.uconn.edu.