



USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

[Volunteer Monitoring and NEMO - Partnerships for Watershed Protection](#)

Volunteer water quality monitoring programs often serve as the critical first link that engages the public in watershed stewardship. Volunteer monitoring programs improve understanding of local water resources; encourage individual and community involvement in water quality protection and restoration efforts, helping communities make informed decisions that improve water quality. Working with programs such as Non-point Education of Municipal Officials (NEMO) allows for a broader use of volunteer generated information. Since volunteer data are often the only information available especially in smaller watersheds, the incorporation of volunteer generated data into NEMO efforts produces a more robust assessment. The tools developed by NEMO provide volunteer programs with improved methods for interpreting and presenting water quality data. This integration of Geographic Information System data with water quality information results in a more holistic view of the watershed, leading to more effective restoration and protection efforts. These partnerships strengthen both programs, and the communities they work with.

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