



## NEMO

*The National NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) Network is a confederation of programs around the country that educate local land use decision makers about the relationship of land use to water quality and water resource protection.*



**Situation:** Land use is decided not only by individual property owners, but by community officials sitting on local land use boards and commissions. These officials need information, tools and education to help them do a better job of protecting their water resources as they grow their communities.

The 34 programs of the NEMO Network educate local land use decision makers about the link between land use and water resource protection. The Network is coordinated by the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension, which leverages CSREES funding with EPA and NOAA support to create the National NEMO Network "Hub." The Hub helps to develop new NEMO programs, and works closely with Network members to strengthen existing programs through the exchange of ideas, educational methods, publications and resources.

### **Actions:**

- Conducted over 100 "scoping workshops" to assist multi-organizational collaborations in other states adapt NEMO to their natural resource and land use challenges.
- Provide new programs with a startup kit that includes sample presentations, publications and tips.
- Held an *Open Space Boot Camp* training session to help NEMO programs demystify open space planning for community leaders.

- Provided training for NEMO programs on the *Impervious Surface Analysis Tool* (ISAT), a GIS software "plug-in" module developed by UConn in partnership with NOAA.
- Created the National NEMO Network website (<http://nemo.uconn.edu/national>), which allows programs to share educational materials, report successes and impacts, connect with a variety of resources and learn about network initiatives.
- Issue a semiannual newsletter that profiles member programs, announces upcoming events and conferences, reports on national policy developments, and provides a status update on the network.
- Provide the National NEMO Network listserv, an interactive forum for NEMO coordinators to share experiences, seek advice and discuss educational approaches.
- Every 18 months to two years, organize the NEMO University (or NEMO U) National Network conference, an opportunity for Network members to develop new educational strategies, collaborate, and share methodologies and research.
- Hold an annual meeting of the National NEMO Network Inter-agency Work Group, a diverse group of federal and national stakeholder organizations.
- Issue a biennial Network Progress Report, encapsulating both Network-wide progress and individual NEMO project impacts.

### **Impact - Outcomes:**

- Creation of 34 funded NEMO programs in 32 states and territories.
- Enhanced communication between member projects, resulting in multi-state educational efforts (such as Lakes NEMO, a product of Maine and Minnesota).
- Innovative, new educational products and techniques from Network members, such as the Northland NEMO's "*Guide to Using Natural Resource Information in Local Decision Making*" and Ohio NEMO's *CampuShed* program to improve water quality practices on the Ohio State University campus.
- Expanded educational tools for Network programs, including open space planning education (about 7 programs) and the ISAT watershed analysis tool (about 6 programs).
- Increased funding made available for NEMO Network programs, such as NOAA's \$200,000 *Coastal NEMO Enhancement Program* in 2002.
- Increased awareness of Extension's role in assisting community decision makers, through NEMO sessions at non-USDA national conferences (e.g., the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Conference in 2004), agency and organization briefings (e.g., the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2004), and publications (e.g., the *Planning Commissioner's Journal* in 2003).

### **Contact**

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