



USDA-CSREES 2005 National Water Quality Conference

Impacts from the First 15 Years of NEMO

Abstract: The National Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Network is a confederation of programs dedicated to the protection of water resources through better land use. The Network grew out of a University of Connecticut Extension project that began 15 years ago. Today there are 34 different NEMO programs in 32 states and the network is preparing to release a new report outlining its impacts.

Objectives: The objective of the National NEMO Network is to assist community decision makers to better accommodate growth with protection of water resources. The Network "Hub," located at the University of Connecticut, is a CSREES 406 National Facilitation Project with project objectives to foster the development and effectiveness of member projects, and to facilitate communication and collaboration between projects.

Methods: The Network Hub remains in close contact with Network projects via email and the NEMO Network listserve. UConn staff conduct "scoping" and training workshops for peers and potential partners located in other states. The Network has an extensive and evolving web site, and issues a newsletter twice a year. A Network conference is held every 18 months to 2 years.

Partnerships: Each individual NEMO Network project is a multi-agency consortium, usually led by University-based Extension or Sea Grant Extension faculty. State agencies, nonprofit organizations, and regional planning authorities are the often partners in NEMO projects.

Resources: USDA support is leveraged with both EPA and NOAA support to support the Network hub. State projects make use of a number of funding sources, including special state funding, Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program funding, and the Sea Grant Coastal Community Development and Coastal Nonpoint Programs of NOAA.

Integration of Research, Teaching, and Extension: Local watershed research, remote sensing technology and land use planning expertise are the foundations of local NEMO programs.

Results: This presentation will: (a) provide a brief background on NEMO and the National Network; (b) describe new Network-wide initiatives that focus on facilitating the sharing of information, educational methods and technical tools among members, and; (c) explore local, statewide, and national impacts of the NEMO program. NEMO projects have helped spur communities to develop new and revised local land use plans, establish natural resource inventories and open space plans, design roads, parking lots, subdivisions and other developments differently, and, in general, better protect their quality (and in some cases quantity) of their water resources. Examples of these impacts from around the country will be explored and discussed.

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