



The Dotted Line: What it Means to Join the NEMO Network

Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) is a University of Connecticut educational program for land use decision makers that addresses the relationship of land use to natural resource protection.

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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, EPA/OWOW and NOAA/NOS.

NEMO is an educational program of the University of Connecticut, Cooperative Extension System, Connecticut Sea Grant College Program and Natural Resource Management and Engineering Department. The Connecticut Cooperative Extension System is an equal opportunity employer.
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If you've gotten this deep into National NEMOdom, it's safe to assume that you are either preparing to get started with your NEMO adaptation, or very thoroughly checking this whole NEMO thing out (or just possibly, a web junky with a lot of time on your hands). More than likely, you've talked to NEMO program team members, and/or participated in a NEMO workshop.

If that's the case, you know that we have formed a National Network of programs adapted from NEMO. Many of your colleagues have asked what exactly that means, and what are the requirements, conditions and caveats involved with participating in the National NEMO Network. The answer is: "darn few." However, those few items are important, so they bear some explanation. So here it is.

The NEMO Network

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 and territories, have joined together to create a unique national network that is sharing information, educational methods and technical tools across state and agency lines.

Who Advises the Network?

The Network is advised by the National NEMO Network Interagency Work Group, an ad hoc group of representatives of federal agencies and national organizations that are involved with, or invested in, NEMO. These include USDA, NOAA, EPA,

NASA, the American Planning Association, the National Association of Counties and the National Association of Development Organizations. The Work Group has met annually since 1997, and keeps in contact with the Network through the Hub.

How Does a Program Become a Member?

At NEMO U2, the Network conference held in January 2002, member programs agreed on the vehicle of a Network Charter (pages 2 & 3), which programs sign to become part of the Network. The Charter has two main purposes. First, it sets forth several key shared philosophical and operating principles for Network programs. These include:

- a non-regulatory, research-based educational approach;
- a primary target audience of local land use decision makers;
- a focus on natural resource-based land use planning and design; and,
- the use of landscape research and mapping technologies to help community leaders visualize their current and future landscapes.

Second, it describes the responsibility that Network programs have to fellow members, and to the Hub. The emphasis is on the free exchange of ideas and materials, helping to ensure that the Network reaches its goal of becoming greater than the sum of its parts.

For the benefit of the Network, there's a need to distinguish between:

- Officially sanctioned, licensed, card-carrying Network member programs;
- Folks and organizations who are making use of NEMO educational materials here and there, but not in an organized, programmatic way, and;
- Folks and organizations that are, either knowingly or unknowingly, ripping us off.

The Policy Statement on page 4 was drafted with these distinctions in mind.

National NEMO Network

Charter Preamble

Network Description

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. Network projects are organized and staffed differently in each state, but are typically multi-agency collaborations that include University-based Extension and Sea Grant Extension programs, state and regional natural resource and planning agencies and nonprofit organizations. NEMO Network projects are founded on the key principles that:

- Land use, which is largely controlled at the local level, is a key determinant of the economic prosperity, environmental quality and character of America's communities;
- Local land use decision makers need useable research-based information and accessible technical tools to assist them in guiding the growth of their communities;
- "On-the-ground" professional outreach education programs are an effective delivery system for providing this information and these tools to local officials.

Network History

Network projects are adapted from the University of Connecticut's Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Project, created in 1991. NEMO has been a pioneer of the use of remote sensing information and geographic information system (GIS) technology to help educate local officials, and in making the case for the critical importance of educating local officials on planning approaches to natural resource protection. Beginning in 1995, the Connecticut project began to assist colleagues in other states to adapt the NEMO educational methodology to their region's land use system and natural resource issues. The first funded NEMO-adapted projects began to appear in 1997. In October of 2000, projects came together for the first time at a conference in Connecticut, and ratified the idea of a National NEMO Network of projects sharing information, educational tools and other resources. They also agreed to have the University of Connecticut NEMO Project serve as the central coordinator, or Network "Hub." In January of 2002, at the second Network conference in South Carolina, representatives approved the idea of a Network Charter, to be signed by all member projects. The Charter, which appears on the reverse side of this document, outlines the criteria, roles and responsibilities of Network projects.

Network Mission Statement

The mission of the National NEMO Network is to help communities better protect natural resources while accommodating growth. This assistance will be rendered through non-regulatory, research-based educational outreach programs that emphasize natural resource-based land use planning and better site design. Network members believe that outreach education is an appropriate, flexible, effective and cost-effective method for catalyzing change to local land use policies and practices. In fulfilling this mission, the Network will also further the missions of a great many agencies and organizations charged with protecting natural resources, preserving community character, promoting sustainable economic growth, reducing sprawl or making remote sensing technology useable by common citizens.

Network Vision

We envision the Network becoming a national force in providing much-needed assistance to community decision makers. We envision robust, well-funded and staffed projects in each of America's states and territories. We envision an evolving and adapting Network that is more than the sum of its parts, leveraging the talents and resources of a long list of federal, state, regional, local and private organizations to the betterment of the entire system. We envision an ever-increasing number of America's communities taking proactive planning approach to balancing growth and natural resources protection, empowered by the information, education and tools provided to them by the National NEMO Network.

National NEMO Network

Charter of Operation

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. In order to maintain the communication and cohesion necessary to exist as a viable Network, and to ensure the level of collaboration required to grow and evolve together as a Network, we hereby agree to the following statements.

As a National Network member, we endorse these common elements:

1. Our project is a non-regulatory, educational program. Our educational materials and methods are intended for educational, non-commercial use only.
2. Our project was adapted and/or created with the knowledge and assistance of the University of Connecticut NEMO Project.
3. Our project endorses the Network mission statement of helping communities better protect natural resources while accommodating growth. To this end, our project addresses land use issues and promotes natural resource-based land use planning and other, related techniques.
4. Our project has a primary target audience of local land use decision makers, as defined by project partners for our area.

As a National Network member, we agree to:

1. Recognize the central coordinating role of the University of Connecticut NEMO "Network Hub," and the importance of the two-way communication with the Hub upon which this coordination depends. The Hub stays in regular communication with Network members and facilitates communication among Network projects. Hub services include Web-based communication, Network conferences, workshops, phone consultations and liaison activities with the National NEMO Network Interagency Work Group.
2. Recognize and promote our relationship with the National NEMO Network. While our project remains principally identified with our partner organizations, we agree to recognize our relationship with the Network on our educational materials and products as per guidelines circulated by the Hub. We also agree to represent the Network at meetings or conferences, when deemed appropriate by consultation between us and the Hub.
3. Share information and materials freely with other Network projects, so that the Network becomes "more than the sum of its parts" through the multiplying effects of information sharing. Materials adapted directly from other Network projects must acknowledge the original project as deemed appropriate by that project.
4. Provide information and materials to the Network Hub, for the purposes of information sharing and Network-wide reporting and marketing. The Hub will collect and organize these materials into Network publications and reports, for the use and benefit of the entire Network.

By signing below, we agree to the above statements.

Name

Project

Date

By signing below, we agree that this project is a Charter member of the National NEMO Network.

John Rozum

National NEMO Coordinator

Date

National NEMO Network

Policy Statement on using NEMO materials

As stated in the NEMO Network Charter, Network programs are encouraged to share educational materials. In order to protect the rights of the original authors and the integrity of the Network, a few simple guidelines are required, as below. This Policy Statement applies to all Charter members of the National NEMO Network. Non-members should contact the Network Hub for additional guidance on use of NEMO materials.

1. Use

NEMO educational materials and methods are intended for educational, non-commercial use only.

2. Name and Logo (For New Members)

We encourage you to use the name "NEMO" and the logo, but we don't require it. While some Network programs have decided that the name doesn't make sense for them, most have decided that the recognition factor and sense of Network identity outweigh any problems. For instance, Alabama, Ohio, South Carolina and others, after careful debate, chose to stay with the name and logo, but to add an element that creates their own state identity. Please contact the Network Hub for examples of logos and, if needed, help in producing one.

3. Shared Materials

(a) Review

For adapted materials: When adapting materials from another Network program, we request that you: (1) notify the originating program, and forward a draft copy to them for comments; (2) provide the Network Hub with a copy of the adapted material, for our files and for possible posting on the Members Resources section of the website.

For new materials: Please provide a digital copy, if possible, to the Network Hub for possible posting on the Members Resources section of the website.

(b) Credit

For material adapted from the Connecticut NEMO Program: We would like the following phrase to appear on adapted printed materials and on main Web pages (the level of conspicuousness is up to you):

© The University of Connecticut. [Used][Adapted] with permission of the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System.

For materials adapted from other NEMO programs: Request specific language from that program.

(c) Network Affiliation

As stated in the Charter, Network members agree to recognize and promote their relationship to the National Network. Therefore, all NEMO related materials should contain the following acknowledgement:

[name of your program] is a charter member of the National NEMO Network.

(d) Network Logo

Also, whenever possible and practicable all materials should display the National NEMO Network logo. NEMO Network logos are available for your use from the Hub and on the NEMO website. The logo shown to the right is the preferred version, however, if requested, a horizontal version (shown at top of page) can be supplied.