

NONPOINT EDUCATION FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS (NEMO)

An educational program for local land use officials that addresses the relationship of land use to natural resource protection.



Contact NEMO at:

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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) Project, with funding from USDA/CRSEES, EPA/OWOW and NOAA/NOS. NEMO is an educational project 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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NEMO's Reason for Being

Natural Resource Protection is the Goal - (even we feel that no further elaboration is needed on this point)

Land Use is the Issue - We believe that better land use decisions are the key to protecting the natural resources, community character, and long-term economic health of our communities.

Local Officials are the Target Audience - Because land use is the issue, the people making land use decisions are our key target audience. In the United States, this means local officials serving on land use boards at the county and municipal levels. (Quick - name 5 groups or organizations devoted to assisting these critical decision makers! Can't do it, can you? Chalk up yet another good reason for NEMO...)

Education is the Method - Given that the local land use decision making process is complex, political, and widely varying, state and federal regulation can only go so far in dictating better land use policies and practices. We believe that education—particularly research-based, non-advocacy professional outreach education—is the best way to foster better land use decisions.

The History of NEMO

NEMO originally was conceived as a pilot project to assist local officials in 3 Connecticut coastal towns address the issue of nonpoint source pollution, and therefore help to better protect the water quality of Long Island Sound.

The original stimulus for NEMO was the creation of a land cover database for the state of Connecticut, for the purposes of estimating nonpoint source loadings of nitrogen to the Sound. Recognizing the educational potential of the land cover information, and with funding from the USDA/CRSEES Water Quality Initiative, NEMO was created in 1991-1992 as a collaboration between 3 branches of the University of Connecticut: the Cooperative Extension System, the Natural Resources Management and Engineering Department, and the Connecticut Sea Grant College Program.

It took about a year to develop the initial NEMO educational program, Linking Land Use to Water Quality, that is built around geographic information system (GIS) images of natural resources and remote sensing-derived images of land cover. After a year of development and a second year of operation in the pilot towns, interest in the NEMO educational program began to spread to other towns, and our Connecticut initiatives

began to widen in scope. By about 1995, colleagues in other states began to express interest in adapting NEMO, and our National work was initiated.

In 1999, both the Connecticut and National efforts got a technical shot in the arm from the formation of the NAUTILUS Regional Earth Sciences Applications Center, a partnership between NEMO and the Laboratory for Earth Resources Information Systems (LERIS) remote sensing lab at UConn. At present (circa 2002), NEMO has worked with almost two-thirds of the 169 municipalities in Connecticut, and the National NEMO Network has funded projects in 24 states.



NEMO Program Workshops

With the help of our CT DEP and various other partnerships, NEMO presents various workshops throughout Connecticut, year round. The intent is to keep Connecticut's land use decision-makers' knowledge of nonpoint source pollution (NPS) and how to manage it, current. The workshops are free of charge, and take about 45 minutes, however additional time for discussion is strongly recommended. Depending on the presentation given, we also provide educational publications, maps, web-based information and individual consultation. If you don't see a workshop specific to your needs, contact us, we are happy to consider adding new topics!

Sponsor a Workshop

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How to Get the Best Results from Your Workshop

1. Get the troops out! Get as many land use commissions, departments and other "players" as possible together to hear the NEMO presentation at the same time. Have your chief elected official provide the motivation.
2. Hold a series of workshops. We recommend you begin with our basic workshop, "Linking Land Use to Water Quality" and then "Roles and Responsibilities of Land Use Commissions". Continue your NEMO education with any of our other workshops on various preservation and development issues in the order that best works for you.

A list of our current workshops, and a brief description, is available on the following pages. Unless otherwise noted, contact **Laurie Giannotti at lgiannot@canr.uconn.edu or call (860) 345-4511 to set up a workshop.**

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NEMO WORKSHOPS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Linking Land Use to Water Quality - The Linking Land Use to Water Quality workshop addresses the relationship of land use to natural resource protection with an emphasis on water quality. It explains the concepts of nonpoint source pollution and watersheds as well as reviewing the impacts of land use on water resources. Natural resource-based planning is introduced as a framework for dealing with land use issues.

Roles and Responsibilities of Land Use Commissions - The Roles and Responsibilities of Land Use Commissions workshop covers the enabling legislation of local land use boards, what they are required to do and what they are able to do. This is critical for novice and experienced commissioners alike, and always generates a lot of discussion. **The workshop is free of charge and is 2-3 hours long. Contact Jim Gibbons at jgibbons@canr.uconn.edu or call (860) 345-4511 to set up a workshop.**

Conducting a Community Resource Inventory (CRI) - In order to protect your town's resources and character, you first have to know what those resources are and what makes up the "character" of your town! A complete Community Resource Inventory (CRI) is made up of three different resource inventories: natural, human, and economic. This workshop describes the importance of each, where you can get resources and information, and what to do with the inventory once it is completed.

Natural Resource-based Planning for Watersheds - The NEMO Team has found there are two major stumbling blocks to local watershed efforts, an inability to get started and an overload of maps/information. This workshop and its companion publication "Natural Resource-Based Planning for Watersheds - A practical Starter Kit For Watershed Projects" will outline a process that will help you get started!

Reducing Runoff - Impervious surfaces like asphalt, concrete and rooftops create polluted runoff and are a major indicator of the impacts of development on water resources. This workshop goes over planning and site design options to reduce both the amount and the impact of impervious surfaces. It also includes information on road and parking lot designs and alternative materials that promote infiltration. Additional information on this subject is available using the Reducing Runoff link.

Wet Lands - The Wet Lands workshop goes over the basic functions and values of wetlands, as well as the regulatory issues surrounding wetland protection and wetland/watercourse buffers. This workshop is a partnership between Cooperative Extension and the Connecticut Sea Grant College Program. **Contact Heather Crawford at Heather.Crawford@uconn.edu or call (860) 345-4511 to set up a workshop.**

Clean Waters: Starting in Your Home & Yard - The Clean Waters workshop focuses on protecting water resources through changes in common activities in and around the home. Three major areas are covered: septic system design and maintenance, hazardous household waste management and "water-friendly" gardening and landscaping practices. This workshop is popular with garden clubs, homeowner's associations and other civic groups. Clean Waters is a joint production of Cooperative Extension and the Connecticut Sea Grant College Program. **Contact Heather Crawford at Heather.Crawford@uconn.edu or call (860) 345-4511 to set up a workshop.**

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Plans of Conservation and Development (POCD) - The POCD workshop covers the legal mandates of a POCD and the basic process of putting one together or updating an existing one. Planning is a community effort, others aside from the Planning Commission will benefit from this workshop. **Contact Jim Gibbons at jgibbons@canr.uconn.edu or call (860) 345-4511 to set up a workshop.**

Open Space Planning - Even when land trusts and towns are actively seeking to protect open space, there is usually no concrete plan as to where, how or even why open space should be acquired. This presentation includes methods and options on how to inventory, prioritize and acquire open space. **Contact Jim Gibbons at jgibbons@canr.uconn.edu or call (860) 345-4511 to set up a workshop.**

Economic Development Planning - The Economic Development Planning workshop is aimed at helping your town's Economic Development Commission (EDC) get started. This workshop outlines a process to implement strategies for sustainable economic development. You will be inspired by success stories from EDCs across Connecticut. **Contact Jim Gibbons at jgibbons@canr.uconn.edu or call (860) 345-4511 to set up a workshop.**

Farmland Preservation - Trying to protect the agricultural heritage of your town? The Farmland Preservation workshop goes over the special considerations that come into play when saving farmland is on the agenda. **Contact Jim Gibbons at jgibbons@canr.uconn.edu or call (860) 345-4511 to set up a workshop.**

Geographic Information Systems - The GIS workshop is designed to introduce municipal officials and volunteers to basic GIS concepts and terminology. The workshop presents information to help organizations understand some of the planning, management, database and application issues important to successful GIS programs. **Contact Sandy Prisloe at sprisloe@canr.uconn.edu or call (860) 345-4511 to set up a workshop.**

Forest Stewardship - Forest resources provide innumerable benefits to a community; watershed protection, wildlife habitat, aesthetic value, recreational value and even have the potential to provide commercial value. The Forest Stewardship workshop, conducted by Cooperative Extension Forestry staff, can help landowners get the information they need to help protect and manage their forested land, now and in the future. **Contact Tom Worthley at tworthle@canr.uconn.edu or call (860) 345-4511 to set up a workshop.**

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