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The History of NEMO

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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 2002, NEMO joined other allied land use education and research programs within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to form the Center for Land use Education And Resources (CLEAR). At present (circa 2004), NEMO has worked with over two-thirds of the 169 municipalities in Connecticut, and the National NEMO Network has projects in 35 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!

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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.

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nemo.uconn.edu

2004 NEMO WORKSHOPS
nemo.uconn.edu/workshops_initiatives

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.

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, social, 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 - Imperious 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.

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.
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