

National NEMO Network

Interagency Work Group Charter

Statement of Purpose

The *National NEMO Network Interagency Work Group* is a group of representatives from a number of agencies and organizations, who have agreed to work together informally to support the National NEMO Network. To better define our intent as a Work Group and the areas of Group consensus, we have agreed to the following statements.

We understand that:

1. Although our missions and program goals vary, local land use decisions are an important factor in fulfilling our missions and reaching our goals.
2. Local land use decisions are a critical determinant of the future natural resource health, economic prosperity and quality of life of the nation's communities.
3. Local land use decision makers need useable research-based information and accessible technical tools to assist them in guiding the growth of their communities.
4. "On-the-ground" professional outreach education programs are an effective delivery system for providing this information and these tools to local officials.

Furthermore, we recognize that:

1. The *Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials* (NEMO) Program of the University of Connecticut is an educational program for local land use decision makers that addresses the relationship between land use and natural resource protection, particularly water resources.
2. NEMO is a national award-winning program with proven impacts in Connecticut, and has been a national leader in the use of remote sensing, geographic information system and internet technologies to support educational programs for local officials.
3. The NEMO model is being adapted around the country, and these NEMO programs are being planned and implemented by multi-agency consortia that involve the agencies and organizations represented on this Work Group.
4. This group of NEMO adaptations, with the leadership and coordination of the University of Connecticut NEMO Program, constitutes a *National NEMO Network* that has immense potential to assist local leaders across the country to better protect natural resources while growing their communities.

Therefore, the Work Group agrees to work together to support the National NEMO Network by:

1. Educating colleagues, co-workers and client groups about NEMO and the National NEMO Network, and promoting the utility of the NEMO model in achieving organization goals.
2. Providing advice and assistance to NEMO program staff.
3. Exploring and pursuing collaborations between Work Group member organizations and agencies, in support of the Network.
4. Investigating opportunities for funding of Network projects through both existing agency programs and new initiatives, including those that apply the NEMO model to specific categories of resources (e.g., wetlands, flood plains, groundwater, etc.).



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Interagency Work Group Preamble

Interagency Work Group History

The *National NEMO Network Interagency Work Group* was established in December of 1997, at an interagency briefing on the University of Connecticut's *Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials* (NEMO) Program. At that briefing representatives from NOAA, NASA, USDA and EPA agreed to continue meeting as an informal Work Group, for the purposes of pursuing collaborative support of the both the Connecticut NEMO Program and the growing national network of projects adapted from the Connecticut model.

The support of the Work Group for NEMO is founded on the common belief that better local land use planning is critical to protecting the cultural, economic and natural resources of the nation's communities. NEMO is a national award-winning educational program for local land use decision makers that addresses the relationship between land use and natural resource protection, with an emphasis on water resources. NEMO uses remote sensing, geographic information system and internet technologies as tools to develop more effective and accessible educational programs for this critical target audience.

Attendees of the 1997 meeting endorsed a vision statement describing the existence of a “*functional, effective national network of education/research projects focused on local land use and its relationship to natural resource protection*” within a two-year horizon. Accordingly, a second meeting of an expanded Work Group was held in December of 1999, exactly two years after the initial meeting. NEMO program staff reported to the Work Group that the *National NEMO Network* was a reality, with 12 funded projects and the potential for another 12 to be initiated during the next two-year interval. Work Group discussion focused on interagency collaboration in support of the Network, and specific mechanisms to support both the Connecticut “Hub” and Network projects across the country.

It was decided that a consensus mission statement, or *Charter*, would be a valuable tool for Work Group members to both demonstrate interagency support for NEMO, and to convey the intent of the Work Group to others. This Charter is an informal expression of the purpose and objectives of the Interagency Work Group, and is not in any way a legal or binding document. The agencies and organizations of the Work Group who have created this Charter and agree to its statements include:

- **USDA Cooperative States Research, Education and Extension Service**
- **USDA/Land Grant University System National Water Quality Advisory & Leadership Team**
- **USDA/Land Grant University National Environmental Initiative (SUNEI)**
- **USDA Experiment Station Committee on Policy (ESCOP)**
- **NASA Office of Earth Science, Earth Science Enterprise**
- **NASA Office of Earth Science, Space Grant College Program**
- **NOAA National Sea Grant College Program**
- **NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management**
- **NOAA Coastal Services Center**
- **EPA Office of Policy/Smart Growth**
- **EPA Office of Water/Nonpoint Source Control**
- **EPA Office of Water/Coastal Management**
- **EPA Region 1 Liveable Communities Initiative**
- **EPA Region 10 Aquatic Resources Unit**
- **American Planning Association**
- **National Association of Counties**
- **The University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System**
- **The Connecticut Sea Grant College Program**