

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