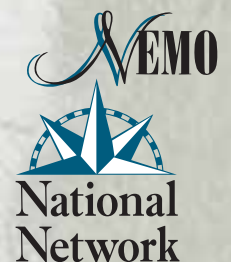


# Charting a Course for Better Land Use

## National NEMO Network 2005 Progress Report

A network of education programs teaching local land use decision makers about the relationship between land use and natural resource protection.





# About This Report

*Communities catalyzed by NEMO education are changing the way they plan, regulate and build their landscape.*

This Report highlights the work of the **National NEMO Network**, a unique group of educational programs that are helping communities across the country make better land use decisions.

The Network is not the result of an agency directive or initiative. It was created in 2000 by its member programs, who share a desire to promote natural resource based community planning, and a belief that education is the way to make it happen.

Our first Progress Report, issued in 2003, focused on the story of the Network. Profiles of individual state programs provided snapshots of how these programs got started, who was involved, where they were focusing their efforts and on what issues, and what changes at the local level they had helped to bring about. As stated in that report, *“perhaps the greatest achievement of the Network is its very existence.”*

And, while the continued existence of the NEMO Network is still a source of wonder to many of us, there is much more than mere survival to relate in this 2005 Progress Report. The Network has continued to grow, with 31 programs now operating in 30 states. Most important, though, is that two more years of maturation for the longer-running projects

have resulted in a wide range of actions in the communities in which they work. From local natural resource inventories to open space plans to zoning regulations to low impact developments, communities catalyzed by NEMO education are changing the way they plan, regulate and build their landscape.

In an attempt to capture the breadth of these changes, this Report is organized not by state, but by type of local impact. The objective is to demonstrate that unbiased, professional, research-based education is by far the most effective and cost effective way to prepare America’s communities to make better land use decisions.

And folks are taking notice. The **U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy** applauded the NEMO Network for the efforts of its programs to improve the health of coastal waters by improving local land use decisions. The report recommended that the US *“increase outreach programs that provide land use decision makers with the knowledge and tools needed to make sound land use decisions.”*

On the pages that follow, we invite you to see for yourself the types of changes that our programs are helping to bring about.



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Land, Sea and Space Grant collaborating.



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