

Beyond Local Impacts



With a Spotlight on Connecticut NEMO



NEMO educational programs are tightly focused on helping local officials make better decisions regarding land use in their communities. Thus, the variety of local impacts already covered—to community plans, regulations, local practices and policies and the landscape—are the primary objectives of any NEMO effort. Nevertheless, NEMO programs have often had additional impacts in the form of changes to statewide policies and practices, and state and national recognition.

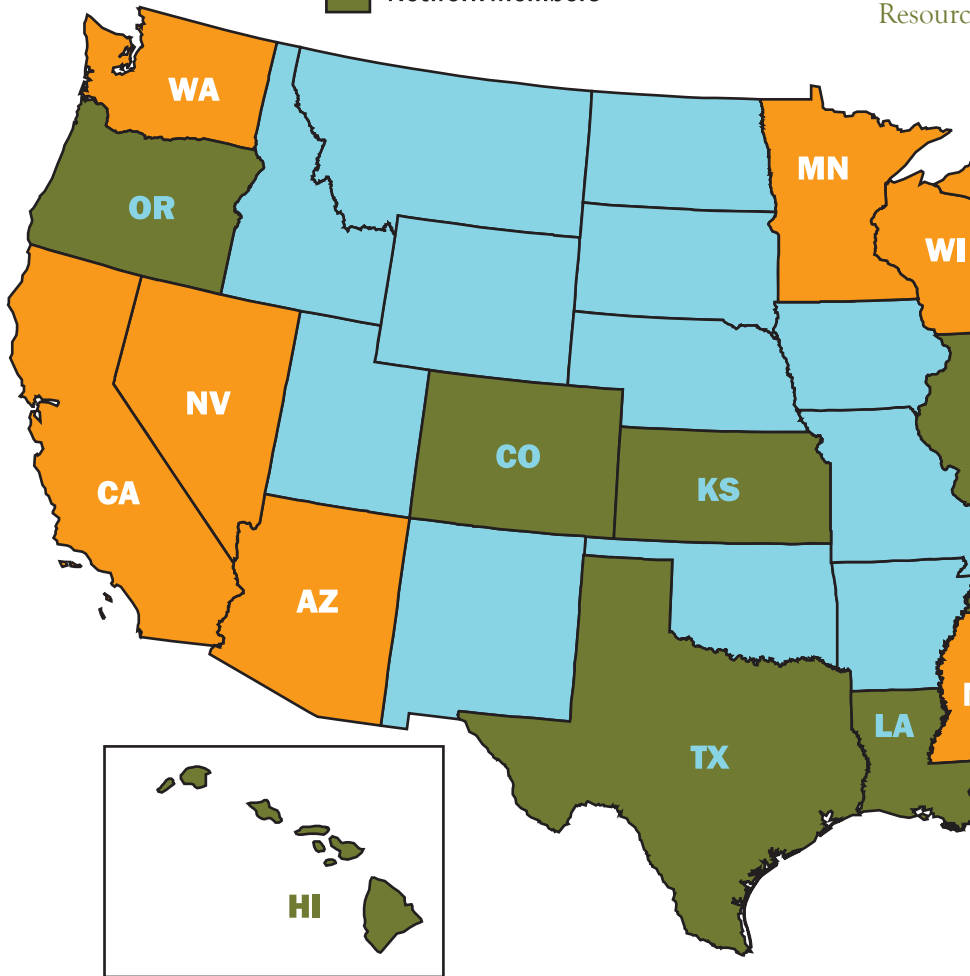
► **Program Award:** The WA NEMO Program and its partners received an *Environmental Plans Merit Award* from the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association for the Chico Creek Watershed Alternatives Future Planning Project.

► **Arizona:** In 2004, the Governor appointed the AZ NEMO coordinator to the **Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission**, which oversees funds for measures to maintain, enhance and restore rivers and streams and associated riparian habitat. In addition, thanks to NEMO's classification and modeling for the Bill Williams, Verde and Upper Gila watersheds, the state has decided that restoration projects in those "NEMO" watersheds will be considered priorities for the state's 319 nonpoint pollution program under the next round of funding.

► **California:** The CA NEMO Partnership has been effective in including land use policies that are protective of natural resources in statewide programs. For example, **California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program Plan**, which combines the state's section 319 nonpoint and 6217 coastal nonpoint programs, references NEMO principles and establishes a committee to focus on urban and NEMO issues. The plan also creates the Critical Coastal Areas program, which will address the water quality impacts of land use activities in coastal zone watersheds in critical need of protection.



-  Network Members Highlighted Here
-  Network Members



► **Program Award:** Sue Donaldson of the NV NEMO Program received the *Golden Pinecone* award by Environmental Leadership, a community based non-profit organization for her pioneering environmental education programs. NV NEMO fact sheets received a national award from the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals.

► **Twin Cities, Minnesota:** Northland NEMO is partnering with the Minnesota Lakes Association and Twin Cities Public Television to produce a 1/2 hour TV show version of their *Linking Land Use to Lake Quality* video. The production will be titled *Development Decisions: the Future of Minnesota's Lakes is Crystal Clear*. The production will be distributed on CD to local governments and lake associations across the state.

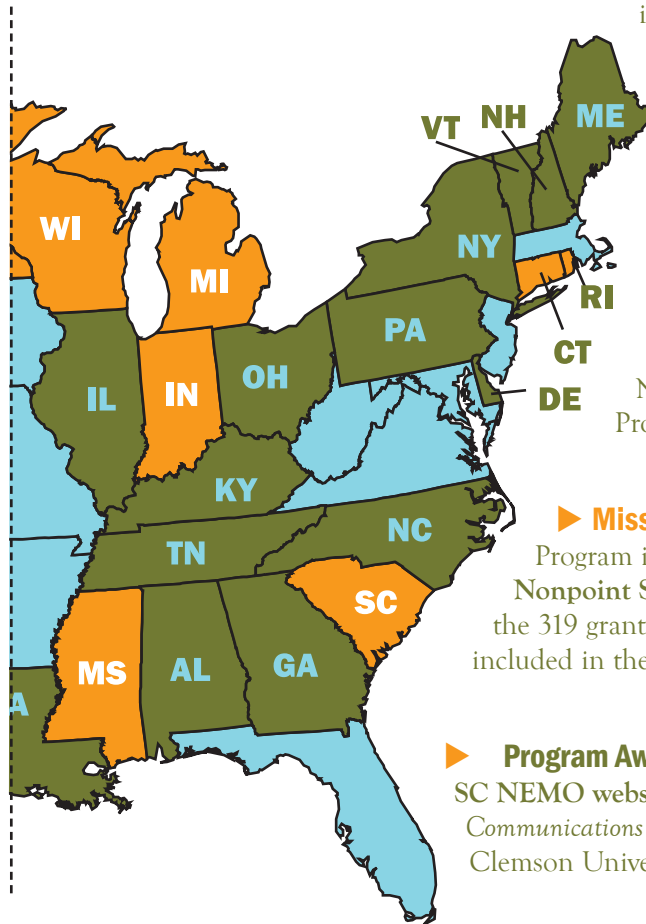
► **Program Award:** Northland NEMO won an award in 2004 for *Outstanding Public Education* from the Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association for their *Linking Local Ordinances to Water Quality* presentation and CD package.

► **Minnesota:** The Northland NEMO Program is endorsed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and highlighted in the agency's Framework for Action to Address the Environmental Impacts of Growth and Development for basin management and stormwater control issues and in the Lake Superior Basin Plan.



► **Rhode Island:** RI NEMO published two manuals through the EPA National Decentralized Water Resources Capacity Development Project. The first of those, *Wastewater Planning Handbook: Mapping Onsite Treatment Needs, Pollution Risks and Management Options*, illustrates how communities can adapt GIS-based approaches for assessment programs. The second manual, *Creative Community Design and Wastewater Management*, became a springboard for the development of a three-volume series with easy-to-read information for homeowners, designer, installers, planners and other local officials.

► **Indiana:** The Indiana NEMO effort, *Planning with POWER*, is closely integrated with many statewide land use committees and boards. In addition, POWER has served as an advisor to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Indiana Department of Environmental Management on stormwater management and regulatory issues, contributed to the **Indiana Rural Wastewater Task Force** report to the Lieutenant Governor and provided key input to the state legislature on farmland protection legislation.



► **Michigan:** A NOAA Coastal Services Center Fellow, in collaboration with the Planning and Zoning Center, Inc., incorporated NEMO educational materials into a guidebook for local governments in Michigan called *Filling the Gaps: Environmental Protection Options for Local Governments*. The guidebook demonstrates how improvements to community master plans and zoning ordinances can protect wetlands, riparian areas and other natural resources. The guidebook supports the Governor’s statewide “Land Use Leadership Initiative” and is catalyzing local action throughout the state. For example, Ada Township relied on the guidebook in crafting a riparian protection ordinance that limits development within specified distances of riparian features, completed a Natural Features inventory, and established an endowment to purchase lands that protect riparian resources.

► **Program Award:** CT NEMO’s *Connecticut’s Changing Landscape* website received a national award from the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals.

► **Mississippi:** The MS NEMO Program is run by the MDEQ Nonpoint Source Section (administers the 319 grant program) and has been included in the programs’ statewide mission.

► **Program Award:** In the spring of 2003, the SC NEMO website was awarded the *AT&T Communications 1st Place Award for 2003* from Clemson University.

► **South Carolina:** The Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium (CWSEC), which was formed in 2004, is a cooperative stormwater education initiative created in response to NPDES Stormwater Phase II permitting requirements. The education providers of the Consortium will utilize NEMO to provide stormwater education to local officials in the six communities that are members of the Consortium: the City of Conway, Georgetown County, Horry County, the City of Myrtle Beach, the City of North Myrtle Beach and the City of Surfside Beach. This regional education approach will likely serve as a statewide model.

Spotlight on Connecticut

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As detailed in the History of NEMO (page 4), the NEMO Program began as a pilot project in three communities in Connecticut in 1991. Since then, the program has had a profound impact on local land-use planning throughout the state, as documented in the 2004 publication *Putting Communities in Charge*. In the course of this work, NEMO has won several national and state awards. In addition, success at the local level has led to “ripple effects” that go beyond local changes.

As with several other Network members, NEMO has had an impact on the “home team” of its host organization, in this case the University of Connecticut (UConn). NEMO has been working with the new UConn Office of Environmental Policy to help promote environmentally sound development and building practices. The result has been the creation of *UConn Sustainable Design Guidelines*, which are given

to all bidders and contractors involved with new buildings on campus. Low impact development stormwater practices are now becoming a common feature of new University site plans. In April 2002, the University established the Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) as an official University Center. CLEAR brings together several programs at the university dedicated to improving land use practices through research, tools, training and education, including the CT NEMO Program and the National NEMO Network.

At the state level, NEMO programs and references have been incorporated into many important state plans and policy documents, including the *State Plan of Conservation and Development, State 319 Nonpoint Source Plan, Coastal Zone Management Act Section 6217 Coastal Nonpoint Source Plan* and the new *Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual*. The latter, created by the state Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) as a resource for all communities in the state, contains figures, photos and recommendations from NEMO throughout. NEMO is currently assisting CT DEP with statewide training on the Manual for municipal officials, town and consulting civil engineers, landscape architects, public works departments,

regional planning organizations, state agencies and others.

At the national level, NEMO has made its way into several high-profile policy documents and reports, including the recently released report of the 2004 U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, and a General Accounting Office report on incentives to promote better land use. NEMO principals also have been a leading force for arguing the



importance of educating local land use officials, in publications covering many disciplines and ranging from the *Journal of Extension* to the *Planning Commissioners Journal* to the *Journal of Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing*. And, of course, there's the National NEMO Network!

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