

Network Hub

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Coordinating the Network

The Network “Hub” operates out of the University of Connecticut and includes two full-time staff, a Network Coordinator and a Network Communicator, with regular contributions and support from CT NEMO Team.

The Network Hub helps other states to plan and implement new NEMO programs and assists ongoing Network programs in any way possible. To date, the Hub has conducted over 100 workshops and scoping sessions, facilitating the creation of NEMO programs in 30 states and underwriting a steady growth in the size and effectiveness of the Network (see *Growth of the Network chart, next page*). The Hub provides developing programs with a NEMO Starter Kit that contains all the materials necessary to get a NEMO program up and running, including PowerPoint™ presentations, publications and tips for setting up a program.

Developing communication links between Network programs is also a key responsibility of the Network Hub. As the Network matures, the Hub has moved from the start up phase to the development phase, and has shifted emphasis

to help existing programs develop new educational modules and strengthen their technical base. The Hub will continue to respond to the needs of Network programs, helping them hone and expand their services to local land use decision makers.

The Network Hub provides support through:

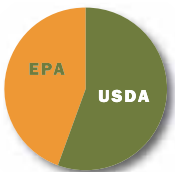
- **Workshops:** As noted, one of the most important Hub functions is conducting on-site workshops in other states. Workshops include scoping workshops to plan new programs, orientation workshops to train staff and topical workshops.
- **Communication:** The Hub produces the semiannual Network newsletter that highlights developments around the Network, maintains the Network-wide list-serv and has created the National Network website that includes a secure area for members to share resources.
- **Networking:** The Hub organizes a near-yearly Network conference, NEMO University (NEMO U). The purpose of the conference is to facilitate networking between programs. NEMO U4, held in April 2005 in Washington DC, was attended by 100 Network



NEMO U4, held in Washington DC, provided an opportunity for NEMO coordinators to network with each other and their federal partners.

Network Hub Support Fiscal Year 2004

Funding for Network coordination varies from year to year and is supported completely by grants. Network coordination and activities are currently supported by two competitive multi-year grants, one from the Water Quality Program of the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES), and the other from EPA's Nonpoint Source Control Branch of the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds.



Funding for Fiscal Year 2004 totalled \$160,000.

participants, from 29 states.

- **Tracking Impacts:** NEMO programs measure success in real, on-the-ground changes to land use policies and practices. The Hub assists Network programs by sharing evaluation tools and has created a web-driven Network Reporting Form for member programs to submit success stories and other impacts. This allows a Network-wide story to be told in progress reports like this one.
- **Geospatial Resources:** NEMO programs are in the vanguard of utilizing geospatial technologies for educational purposes. The National NEMO Hub, together with the University of

Connecticut Geospatial Technology Program, are working to make connections and create new tools for the use of Network programs. These include the National Geospatial Dataset website and the Impervious Surface Analysis Tool (ISAT) (page 31). The Network is connected to other agencies and networks that are working on cutting-edge geospatial information and technology, such as the NASA DEVELOP network, the NOAA Coastal Services Center and the National Geospatial Technology Extension Network of USDA and NASA.

- **Training:** The Hub holds periodic training sessions for Network members to help them expand programming in their states. Past sessions have included an open space planning “boot camp” and an ISAT training workshop (page 31).
- **Partnerships:** The Hub builds partnerships with other organizations and federal agencies to bring additional expertise to the Network. These partners give technical, topical and financial assistance to Network programs.

