

Network Impacts

NEMO programs are demonstrating time and again the power of education to catalyze action at the local level.

Is the Network having an impact? In other words, are local officials who make land use decisions for their communities better equipped to protect natural resources? The answer is YES.

While the approach of all Network programs is to educate local land use decision-makers on the connection between land use and natural resource protection, NEMO seeks to do more than merely raise their levels of understanding. We want to see that understanding reflected in real changes to land use policies and practices. The proof is in the pudding, as they say, and NEMO programs are demonstrating time and again the power of education to catalyze action at the local level.

NEMO's mantra of **natural resource based community planning** requires attention to conservation and development as two sides of the same coin, to be addressed in tandem—not in opposition to, or in isolation from, each other. As a result, communities working with NEMO implement a wide range of actions, from research to planning to regulation to development design.

This Report highlights a few examples from around the Network of local actions that have been catalyzed by NEMO programs. We have organized them into the following six categories:

1 Research and Information Gathering

These initiatives help provide the local data upon which rational land use plans and decisions can be based.

2 Changes to the Decision Making Process

The players and specific steps involved in local land use decision making can make a huge difference. These changes create a decision making structure that is more conducive to proactive planning.

3 Changes to Plans

Plans constitute the backbone of local land use decision-making by setting out long term goals and a vision for how a community will grow.

4 Changes to Regulations

Regulations and ordinances give “teeth” to plans and dictate the specifics of how, where and when development may occur. Changes here provide direct protection for priority community resources.

5 On the Ground Changes

Where the rubber meets the road. From “low impact” subdivisions to permanently protected open space, changes to the actual landscape are an ultimate indicator of impact.

6 Beyond Local Impacts

NEMO programs focus on local impacts. However, as an innovator, NEMO programs often create or inspire changes to state or regional plans, policies and programs.

Photo courtesy of T. Svetlich.





Public access parking stalls at Cornfield Point, Old Saybrook, Connecticut feature alternative pavement that promotes infiltration. Shown here are modular concrete pavers.

Network Members

Connecticut	1991
Rhode Island	1992
South Carolina	1996
Alabama	1998
New Hampshire	1998
Maine	1999
Ohio	1999
Oregon	1999
Georgia	2000
New York	2000
Wisconsin	2000
Indiana	2000
Kansas	2001
Michigan	2001
Minnesota	2001
Pennsylvania (1)	2001
Tennessee	2001
Washington	2001
Arizona	2002
Colorado	2002
Delaware	2002
Texas	2002
Louisiana	2003
Mississippi	2003
Nevada	2003
North Carolina	2003
California	2003
Vermont	2004
Pennsylvania (2)	2004
Illinois	2004
Hawaii	2005

The following pages are not an exhaustive list of all NEMO program impacts. Rather, they are an attempt to present a representative sample of the types of actions that have been catalyzed by NEMO efforts and driven by local action.

For more details on what individual NEMO programs are doing, and routing to member’s websites, visit the Network website at nemonet.uconn.edu. Or use the contact information in the back of this Report to speak to a real live NEMOid in your state!

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