



# The NEMO Hub

## Coordinating the Network

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The NEMO Network is coordinated by the University of Connecticut's Department of Extension and is part of the Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR). The Network "Hub" consists of two full time staff, a Network Coordinator and a Network Communicator, with regular contributions and support from the CT NEMO team. The Network is a USDA CSREES National Facilitation Project.

As the Network Hub, the University of Connecticut:

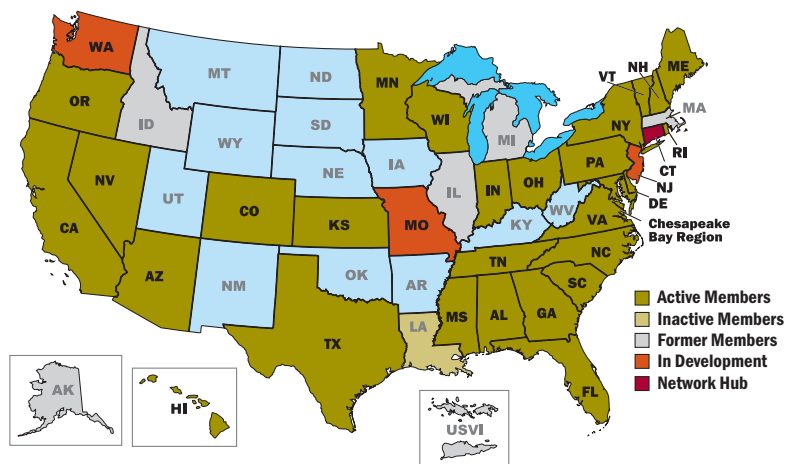
- helps interested universities and other organizations **start** a NEMO program,
- facilitates **communication** and resource sharing between NEMO programs,
- provides **training** opportunities to help increase the capacity of NEMO programs,

- serves as a **national liaison** between the Network, federal agencies and national organizations interested in water quality, local land use and resource protection.

### Starting Programs

In the initial days of the Network, the Hub's primary function was to help universities and organizations in other states develop a NEMO program. As folks in other states heard about the CT NEMO approach, they requested Connecticut staff put on "scoping workshops" to guide them in exploring and establishing a NEMO program. To date, the Hub has conducted over 100 scoping and follow-up workshops around the country, facilitating the creation of NEMO programs in 38 states (see map below). The Hub continues to conduct scoping workshops today at an average of two per year.

National NEMO Network Members Map





## Facilitation

As the Network has grown, the Hub's primary role has shifted from helping programs get started to facilitating communication and resource sharing between programs. The Hub manages a Network listserv and has created a "members only" website for the sharing of presentations, publications and other resources amongst programs. The Network also gathers every eighteen months to two years at NEMO University (NEMO U), the national conference of the Network. NEMO U is a seminal event in the growth and development of the Network, providing an opportunity for folks to forge connections across the country and learn from one another.



*The NEMO Hub and CT NEMO team pose for a group photo at NEMO U6 in Monterey, California.*

## Trainings

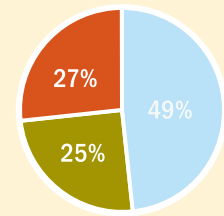
In addition to facilitating interaction between programs, the Hub provides member programs with training opportunities to help build their topical and technical prowess. Past Network-wide training workshops have focused on helping programs establish new educational resources on topics like open space protection and forest resources, develop or expand their use of geospatial technologies and adapt technical tools

like the Online Community Resource Inventory (CRI) or the Impervious Surface Analysis Tool (ISAT) to their state. In addition, starting with NEMO U4, the Hub has been integrating training opportunities into our national conference. The Network Initiatives section (page 32) of this report has more details on some of the Hub's training efforts.

## Partnerships

The Hub also serves as the Network's liaison to federal agencies and regional and national organizations. As such, the Hub keeps partners and potential partners informed on the progress and achievement of individual programs and the growth of the Network as a whole. In turn, these agencies and organizations provide technical, topical and, occasionally, financial assistance to member programs. Key partners include the USDA CSREES, U.S. EPA, NOAA, Center for Watershed Protection and the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET). See graph 2 for more on how funding for Network coordination has been leveraged with more resources for Network members.

**NEMO Hub Base Funding 2008**



- USDA CSREES Water
- USDA CSREES Forest
- NOAA CICEET

*(Graph 1) Primary funding for the Hub comes from the USDA CSREES Water Quality Program. Other funding is for specific projects.*

*(Graph 2) Leveraged funds shared with Network members for participation in specific projects.*

**Funds Leveraged to Network Members 2008**

