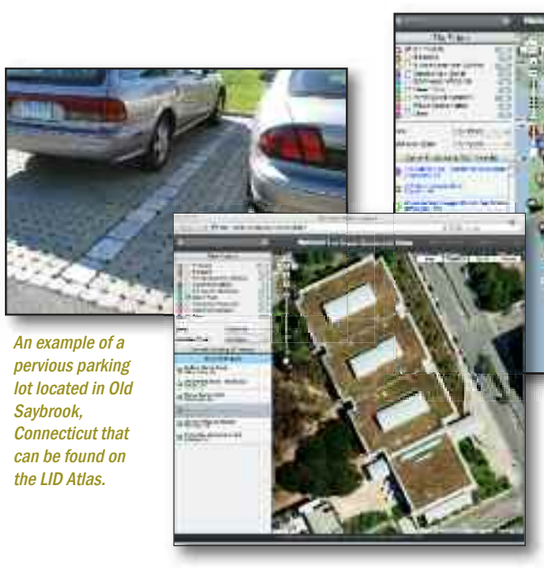
The National NEMO Network is a group of affiliated projects that educate local land use decision makers about the relationship of land use to natural resource protection. The Network is coordinated by the University of Connecticut Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Program, with funding from USDA/CRSEES and EPA/OWOW. The National NEMO Network is a program of the Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR). Land, Sea and Space Grant collaborating.

University of Connecticut
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

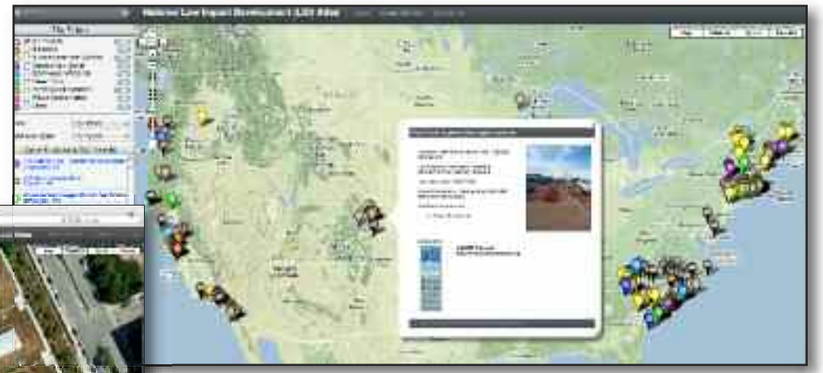
Strenthening Network Programs

NEMO Network Initiatives

LID Atlas Online at clear.uconn.edu/tools/lidmap



An example of a pervious parking lot located in Old Saybrook, Connecticut that can be found on the LID Atlas.



(Above) The NEMO LID Atlas highlights examples of low impact development around the country. (Left) Using Google Maps imagery you can zoom into a birdseye view of the practices. Seen here is the Gap Corporate Headquarters' green roof located in San Bruno, CA. Not visible from this aerial image, the vegetative areas planted on top of the building were made to appear like rolling hills.

The National LID Atlas is an interactive map that was created to highlight innovative low impact development (LID) practices around the country. Its goal is to encourage and educate local officials and others about low impact development practices by providing specific, local examples of their use.

Visitors to the Atlas can search the project database by state, type of LID practice, land use type and keyword. The Atlas can be accessed via the NEMO Network website, but many individual NEMO programs have also "embedded" the Atlas in a window in their own sites. The 32 member programs of the National NEMO Network have compiled the projects highlighted on this site and will continue to add new projects as they become available; almost 500 LID sites are currently posted. Each project balloon contains project specifics, a summary of the project, photos (when available) and links to more information. Creation of the Atlas was a collaborative effort between the Connecticut NEMO Program, the National NEMO Network and the California Water and Land Use Partnership (WALUP). Contact your local NEMO program or the NEMO Hub to have your projects added to the site.

Franchising Web-based Tools

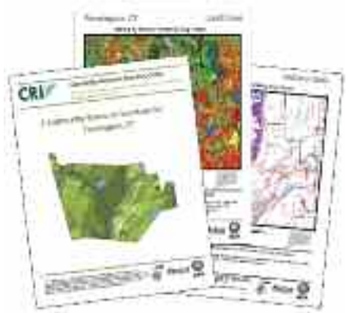
Online At clear.uconn.edu/projects/cri

Over the last decade, the volume of geospatial data available at the local level has increased dramatically. This has created a great opportunity to provide much needed context for local land use decision-makers. However, the increase has also created challenges, particularly for smaller, developing communities without the staff or expertise to identify what data to use and how to use it. NEMO programs are increasingly working to help communities overcome these challenges through simple yet flexible tools that utilize the web to provide access to the most pertinent geospatial data.

Online Community Inventory

The Network Hub, with funding from the NOAA Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) at the University of New Hampshire, is facilitating wider use of web-based geospatial tools within the NEMO Network through the "franchising" of the Connecticut NEMO Online Community Resource Inventory (CRI) tool in five other NEMO states – Rhode Island, Minnesota, North Carolina, Delaware and South Carolina.

The Online CRI is a website that provides users with access to 14 geospatial data layers of natural, cultural, and economic resources for every town in Connecticut. As users click through the data they produce a simple resource inventory that can be used to inform land use planning decisions. The website complements face-to-face NEMO workshops that focus on the basic premise that good local planning should begin with an understanding of what and where the community's natural and cultural resources are.



The Network Hub held a training session in January of 2009 for NEMO programs interested in building their own Online CRI tool.

The franchising project began in 2008 with a workshop on how the Connecticut CRI was built and how to adapt the concept to other states. All five of the franchises will be completed in the fall of 2010. Each state is using different technologies and approaches to building their site, but all will allow users to generate a series of basic resource maps for their community, on demand. To encourage further replication, the NEMO Hub will compile an online cookbook with the different "recipes" each state has come up with for building a tool like this.

FREMO = Forest Resources + NEMO

It has long been understood that the forested landscape is closely linked to water quality, and, more broadly, the overall ecologic, economic, and public health of our communities. As communities continue to grow and develop, the health of our forest lands is threatened by their conversion to other uses, fragmentation, and division into smaller lots (i.e., parcelization). Because the majority of forested land is privately-owned, the majority of educational efforts seeking to protect forest resources have focused on individual land owners. However, community land use decision makers (the focus of NEMO programs) are also critical to the sustainability of the forest resource.

Network members networking at the FREMO workshop in Annapolis, Maryland.

Enter the NEMO Network's Forest Resource Education for Municipal Officials (FREMO) project. Launched in 2006 in partnership with the USDA CSREES Forestry Program and the U.S. Forest Service, FREMO is an effort to integrate the forested landscape more fully into the efforts of NEMO programs to assist communities in protecting natural resources through land use planning. The approach is to facilitate the adaptation and development of educational workshops, materials and resources by Network members throughout the country that convey the impacts of forest fragmentation, parcelization, and conversion to local land use decision makers and provide land use planning based solutions for addressing those challenges.

In the fall of 2007 folks from 12 NEMO programs and their partners participated in the Forest Resource Education for Municipal Officials (FREMO) Workshop in Annapolis, Maryland. The workshop featured great discussions on the threats to the health of forestlands, the benefits of forests, the links between forested landscapes and healthy watersheds, and strategies for integrating forest-related issues into natural resource based planning.

Since the workshop, five NEMO Programs (Northland, Oregon, North Carolina, Vermont, and Connecticut) have launched "FREMO" education projects of their own, with seed funding from USDA CSREES and the forest service via the Hub and in collaboration with real-live extension foresters. Some of the materials and workshops being developed have focused on strategies for protecting forestlands through land use planning, the economics of forests in land use planning, the role of forests in protecting watersheds, tracking the fragmentation of forests using GIS, and forest visualization tools. Once complete, these materials will be available for adaptation by other programs.

The NEMO Hub, in collaboration with UConn CLEAR's extension forester, is now seeking to help encourage foresters to begin outreach to local land use officials in partnership with NEMO programs or other land use educators. For more information, contact the Hub at david.dickson@uconn.edu.