The National NEMO Network is a confederation of 31 programs in 30 states focused on providing education and support to local land use decision makers about the connection between land use and water quality. Each of these programs, while adapted after the original NEMO program at the University of Connecticut, is a unique entity tailored to meeting the needs of land use officials in their state.

The basic approach of NEMO programs is face-to-face workshops for local officials on land use and natural resource protection. Because land use issues are complex, multi-faceted and often political, there is no substitute for the direct give-and-take of direct communication with local officials. Workshops are supplemented with publications, online resources, and the use of geospatial and remote sensing technologies.

Examples of some of the changes NEMO programs are helping bring about:

**Maine:** After a NEMO presentation on open space subdivisions, Scarborough adopted conservation subdivision design regulations for subdivisions that contain wetlands. This ordinance allows cluster subdivisions within town, and requires any subdivision impacting 4300 square feet of wetland, to be designed with clustered housing and a minimum of 50% of the area preserved in open space.

**South Carolina:** Horry County worked with SC NEMO to conduct a county-wide open space inventory of all protected open space and undeveloped, un-protected parcels. This inventory was used to establish a decision-making framework that analyzes land use alternatives and impacts associated with the county’s open space.

**Minnesota:** After a Northland NEMO presentation about Natural Resource Based Planning, the City of Medina formed an open space task force to develop the open space plan component of their comprehensive land use plan, and enacted a 6-month moratorium on new development. The NEMO presentation helped guide the formation of the task force and helped them focus their work.

**Forests, Water Quality, & Land Use**

The Network, in partnership with the USDA CSREES Forestry Program has launched a new initiative to develop educational materials for community land use decision-makers on Forest Cover and the importance of integrating the forest resource into community planning. Local land use officials are an audience rarely targeted by forest-related education efforts. This new initiative will build upon the technical expertise of existing Extension Forestry programs in combination with the experience of NEMO Network members in reaching this “new” target audience.

In addition to new educational resources, the Network Hub’s parent organization, UConn’s Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR), has developing a Forest Fragmentation analysis. This tool examines each 30m pixel in the land cover data for each county in the nation. The tool is being adapted and added to the CommunityViz, a popular land use visualization program. This tool will be combined with new educational materials to help local officials understand and visualize the impact of land use on the Forest Resource.

**Examples of NEMO efforts:**

- The Connecticut NEMO program developed web-based tool, the Online Community Resource inventory (CRI), that allows any of the state’s 169 towns to create a basic community resource inventory using Geospatial imagery directly on the program’s website, without any knowledge of geospatial technology or software. nemo.uconn.edu/tools/cri/ This tool is now being franchised by 4 other NEMO programs.

- Delaware NEMO developed a Natural Resource Based Planning Guide for Delaware communities that was adapted from similar guides in Minnesota and Connecticut. The guide has been distributed to every Delaware county and municipality and is also available on the DE NEMO website.