

Network *Initiatives*

The Network was originally envisioned as a cooperative of educational programs that would assist each other in fulfilling their mission of educating local decision makers. But as the Network has grown, it has begun to demonstrate that it can be far more than the sum of its parts, helping to leverage federal and state

information, programs and dollars in a unique and effective way. The power and potential of a national network of land use education programs is being demonstrated through several ongoing initiatives. You can learn more about these initiatives at our website: nemo.uconn.edu/national/projects/

Enhancing Coastal NEMO Programs

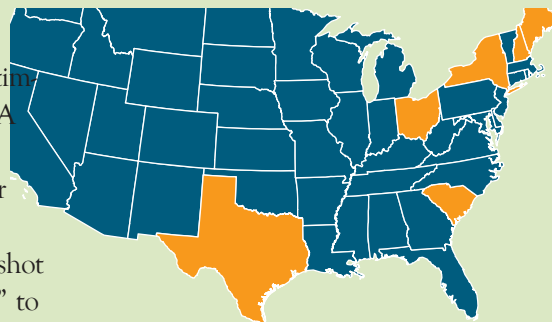
In recognition of the fact that on-the-ground NEMO education was a tailor-made vehicle for several NOAA programs to attain their goals, in 2001-2002 four branches of NOAA collaborated on the **Coastal NEMO Enhancement Grant Program**. The Coastal Programs Division, National Sea Grant College Program, National Estuarine Research Reserve System and Coastal Services Center worked with the Network Hub to make available \$200,000 in NOAA funding in competitive grants to coastal NEMO programs, to enhance their educational efforts. The purpose

was twofold: to stimulate intra-NOAA collaboration between the four arms of NOAA,

and to give a “shot in the arm” to the NEMO Network.



It worked. Six proposals were funded out of the 15 proposals received (*map, funded states in orange*). The resultant projects, each involving a long list of partners, will strengthen not only the NEMO programs in these six states but the entire Network.



Planning for Open Space

In 2002, an exciting collaboration began between the NEMO Network and the EPA Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Division of Development, Community and the Environment, also known as the “Smart Growth” Office. Through this *Smart Growth through Open Space Planning* partnership 14 NEMO programs in 13 states attended an August, 2002



Open Space Boot Camp training session organized by the Hub. Attendees were taught how to demystify open space planning for local leaders through a series of practical steps that outline the information gathering, prioritization, public input and public outreach phases of planning. Network programs are now in the process of developing educational programs to assist communities as they plan for



(from top) Discussion session at Open Space Boot Camp; Open Space Boot Camp participants; ISAT training; ISAT watershed analysis; NOAA's Coastal NEMO Enhancement Grant Program Team; Learning about open space planning.

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open space conservation. Targeted regions, several located in some of the most rapidly growing areas in the country, include: Knox County, Tennessee; Nissequogue River watershed, Long Island, New York; Town of Northport,

Maine; City of Lewes, Delaware; Scott County, Minnesota; Ogeechee River watershed, Georgia; Beaufort County, South Carolina; Hendricks County, Indiana; and City of Fairhope, Alabama.



Impervious Surface Research



**GEOSPATIAL
TECHNOLOGY
PROGRAM**

Through the work of NEMO, the Center for Watershed Protection and others, the importance of impervious surface as an indicator of water quality degradation has become widely accepted. More communities are now interested in identifying where these surfaces are located in their town or watersheds, so they can begin to develop strategies to minimize the effects of development on their water resources. A collaborative of UConn's Geospatial Technology Program, the National NEMO Network and NOAA Coastal Services Center has addressed this need by developing an "add-on"

module for a commonly used GIS software package. Called the **Impervious Surface Analysis Tool (ISAT)**, it helps communities estimate levels of imperviousness through the use of land cover coefficients. Since these coefficients vary considerably from region-to-region and state-to-state, a workshop was held in October 2002 to train Network members in the use of ISAT, and to develop standard protocols for the development of local coefficients. This information will be compiled by the Network Hub and represent the first time a unified, nationally derived set of coefficients has been assembled. The use of the Network to test and collect scientifically relevant information is a model for future collaborations.

