

Indiana *Planning with POWER*



Program Initiated: July, 2000

How the Program Developed *How/Where NEMO Works*

In the decade from 1990 to 2000, Indiana's population grew by almost 10 percent, with the fastest growing areas located not in the cities, but in agricultural areas. Although 38th in the nation in land area, Indiana ranks second in prime farmland, so the impact of increased development on farmland and water resources is a major concern.

With these issues as a backdrop, the seeds of Indiana's NEMO effort were planted in June of 1997, when the CT NEMO Team traveled to Traverse City, Michigan to conduct a workshop for the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network Land Use Team. The following spring, a NEMO workshop was hosted by Indiana-Illinois Sea Grant, and after a period of program development, *Planning with POWER* began in 2000. The "POWER" in the program name stands for "Protecting Our Water and Environmental Resources." Initial funding for the program came from an Indiana Section 319 Nonpoint Source grant, with additional support from the NOAA Coastal Services Center. Ongoing support is provided by the two lead agencies, the Indiana-Illinois Sea Grant College Program and the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service.



The POWER Program is a collaboration between two successful statewide educational and technical assistance efforts: the Purdue Extension Land Use Team and the multi-agency Indiana Conservation Partnership. In November of 2000, with assistance from the Network Hub, POWER held a two-day training workshop for program partners to kick off the effort. Team members

developed and unveiled a 25-minute educational presentation targeted at county commissioners, county planning and zoning officials and local officials. The presentation has been delivered in 40 counties, to audiences representing over 60 professional groups and agencies in Indiana. Hendricks, Elkhart, Howard, Dearborn and Putnam Counties, in particular, have been the focus of much activity. In addition, presentations have been given at a number of statewide conferences and workshops.

The program's publications now number six, a website has been developed, and POWER displays have been exhibited at over 40 events around the state.

Accomplishments

The Planning with POWER Program is working closely with five communities on POWER goals and objectives.

- In Hendricks County, local leadership organized a Planning With POWER Advisory Committee that meets monthly and advises the Hendricks County
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(from top) Land Use Team tour of the environmentally sensitive Prairie Crossing Subdivision. Pond fountain along trail at the Coffee Creek Development. Buffer between state highway and cornfield with subdivision and high school in background. Photos courtesy of the Planning with POWER Program.

A Planning with POWER Advisory Committee advises the Hendricks County Plan Commission on incorporating natural resource protection into the comprehensive planning process.

Plan Commission on incorporating natural resource protection into the comprehensive planning process. Currently, this group is helping to update and revise subdivision control ordinances. In addition, the POWER group is developing a conservation design subdivision ordinance.

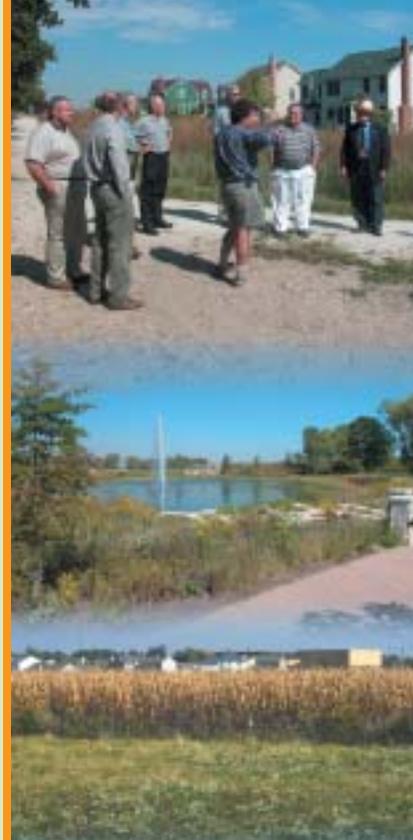
- In Elkhart County, Planning With POWER has held several meetings to discuss natural resource protection and to help initiate a comprehensive land use plan update. The POWER Program is also working with several watershed projects to help them develop land use planning goals for the future.
- In Howard County, Planning with POWER has delivered several presentations including a Developers Workshop. The Planning With POWER Coordinator serves on the Wildcat Creek Watershed Alliance Land Use Committee and is providing expertise on natural resource protection on an ongoing basis.
- In Dearborn County, Planning with POWER has been working with the City of Aurora and county officials on long range planning. The POWER Program helped plan a Hillside Slippage

workshop for developers, builders and other local officials in collaboration with the Indiana Land Resources Council and the local Soil and Water Conservation District.

- In Putnam County, Planning With POWER has been working closely with a farmland preservation group, and more recently with the Indiana Land Use Consortium, on a community workshop on land use and the environment. The POWER program presented information on water quality status, and the county is discussing a GIS initiative as well as updating the comprehensive plan.

The Future

Planning with POWER is working closely with the recently formed Indiana Land Resources Council, a group chaired by the Lieutenant Governor that is working with communities across the state. The Council has asked POWER to provide assistance and guidance to their first pilot community. With that kind of high level endorsement, and an average of two to three new counties requesting POWER presentations each month, the future of NEMO in the Hoosier state seems bright.



Program Partners

Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program

Department of Forestry & Natural Resources, Purdue University

Purdue Cooperative Extension

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Indiana Land Resources Council

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Ohio NEMO is a charter member of the National NEMO Network.

