



Maine NEMO Program

Maine is a state comprised of small communities, many of which are experiencing a rapid rate of growth—particularly along the coast. This rapid growth threatens the rural character and spectacular natural resources that define Maine communities and are the foundation of one of the major economic engines of the state, the tourist industry. At the 1998 state Water Resources Conference, a NEMO presentation started discussion that eventually led to the formation of an inter-agency group. This group, headed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the State Planning Office, brought NEMO to Maine in October 1999. Funding for the program has come from these two partners, with much of the support coming from the state Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program. The NEMO Coordinator is housed within the Partnership for Environmental and Technology Education (PETE), a national nonprofit network of community and technical colleges.

The original pilot program, which focused on two southern Maine coastal communities, is in the process of evolving

into a statewide program. The statewide program is growing through the collaboration of a number of agencies and organizations. Water quality professionals from these partner agencies are trained to deliver NEMO educational programming to community leaders and watershed groups.

Three such training programs have been held to date. The Maine NEMO Program is focusing on two areas where the state is experiencing the most rapid growth, coastal and lakeside communities. In addition to training and educational programs adapted from Connecticut's work, Maine NEMO has developed a lakes educational module.

With the statewide program just hitting the streets, the great promise of Maine NEMO is just beginning. Already, the program has created an impressive statewide network of state agencies and nonprofit organizations working together to get the NEMO message out to as many communities as possible. NEMO is also referenced in Maine's draft guidance for the upcoming Stormwater Phase II Program, which will likely lead to many more communities seeking assistance.

Program Partners

University of Southern Maine

State Planning Office
- Coastal Program

University of Maine Cooperative
Extension

Maine Sea Grant

Lakes Environmental Association

Maine Department of
Environmental Protection

Casco Bay Estuary Program

Wells National Estuarine Research
Reserve

EPA Region 1

Cumberland County Soil &
Water Conservation District

College of the Atlantic

Maine Drinking Water Program

Department of Marine Resources

Portland Water District

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

