New & Noteworthy

A New Land/Forest Fragmentation Tool continued from pg 1...

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Typical NEMO continued from pg 2...

...continued on pg 4

Graph of the tools and publications NEMO programs use to supplement workshops.

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**Program Spotlight**

A Typical NEMO Program

Data from the most recent Network Impact Survey

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As faithful readers of the NEMO Network Newsletter know, we often profile a member of the Network in this space. This time, however, we decided to profile not just one, but all NEMO programs. By that we mean that we have compiled data from the most recent Network Impact Survey on how programs are structured, funded, run, etc. in an effort to provide a snapshot of what a typical NEMO program looks like. Warning: there are several graphs and lots of numbers in this article. The graphing and math averse may wish to avert their eyes.

**Funding:** When we do scoping workshops in states looking to start a NEMO program, the most common question is “How much does it cost to run a NEMO program?” The answer is, of course, as much funding as you can find. While we could all do exponentially more with more, the average annual budget for a NEMO program is just over $100,000. The range of funding goes from no funding to $400,000 per year.

The second most common question we get is “Where does the funding come from?” The answer to this question has varied greatly over the years as typical sources of funding have been redirected or dried up and NEMO programs have been forced to look elsewhere. As a result there is no longer one common source of funds, but rather several, including state administered Section 319 Clean Water Act funds (Nonpoint Source Pollution) (15 programs), direct federal grants (16 programs) and University funding (14 programs). See graph, above.

**Structure:** Who leads NEMO programs? The typical NEMO program is university based —27 of the 31 existing NEMO programs are led by either Sea Grant (13 programs) and/or Land Grant/Cooperative Extension (21 programs) programs. State natural resource/environmental agencies are also involved in leading NEMO programs in 6 states (4 of those are in collaboration with universities). Of the programs that do not involve universities, 2 are led by non-profit organizations and 1 is led by a federal agency.

Regardless of who leads, every NEMO program is built upon a diverse array of partners, from state agencies to National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs) to planning organizations, and others (see graph, left). In addition to help with trainings, partners provide guidance, technical support, outreach assistance and more.

In terms of staffing, on average NEMO programs are coordinated by 1.5 FTEs. This ranges from no full time staff (at least not yet for some of the newer programs) to up to 7. The average number of actual educators within a NEMO program is nearly 6, as many NEMO programs rely on partners or trained volunteers to help deliver workshops.

**Educational Approaches:** Ok, so now we know who is involved and generally how NEMO programs are wired, but what do they actually do? Of course, the bread and butter of NEMO programs continues to be face-to-face workshops. The typical NEMO program gives a workshop or presentation once every three weeks, or 17 times per year, and estimate that they work with 13 communities and reach approximately 450 people per year.

In addition to presentations and workshops, NEMO programs employ the whole gamut of outreach/educational tools to reach their target audience. Almost all NEMO programs supplement their workshops with fact sheets and guidance publications, such as how to protect storm water from pervious pavers, green roofs, rain gardens, vegetated swales and other stormwater treatment practices that have been installed throughout the region. Users of the site can search by practice or by state and can submit sites for inclusion in the database. It is modeled after CT NEMO’s online LID Inventory and New England NEMOIds worked with the Stormwater Center to help populate it.

Visit www.nerrdata.org or by state and cansubmitsitesfor population. It is a great resource for anyone looking to determine the effectiveness of LID approaches. All hail to Mike Dietz (formally of CT NEMO) and our own Kara Bonsack for assembling and designing this excellent resource.

See box below for more information and details on how to order your free CD.)

**Outside Resources:**

- UConn and NEMO Release Jordan Cove Multimedia CD

It’s finally here! UConn’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and CT NEMO have just completed a comprehensive CD of resources on the Jordan Cove Project. The project, which began in 1995, was designed to determine water quantity and quality benefits of using low impact development/best management practices (LID/BMP) in a residential subdivision.

The multimedia CD highlights the project’s background, has detailed descriptions of the low impact development processes used, lists technical and non-technical results and shows interviews from key players in the process. It is a great resource for anyone looking to demonstrate the effectiveness of LID approaches. All hail to Mike Dietz (formally of CT NEMO) and our own Kara Bonsack for assembling and designing this excellent resource.

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**New England LID/BMP Database**

In hopes of making innovative stormwater practices more widespread, New England NEMO programs and the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center have unveiled an online database of LID/BMP installations in the New England Region. The site provides details and contact information to interested parties. It is a great resource for anyone looking to determine the effectiveness of LID approaches. All hail to Mike Dietz (formally of CT NEMO) and our own Kara Bonsack for assembling and designing this excellent resource.
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The ArcGIS version of the fragmentation tool is available for free download from the CLEAR website at clear.uconn.edu/projects/landscape/forest_frag.htm or the Placeways website at www.placeways.com. Background information about the Forest Fragmentation tool can also be found on the CLEAR website and a training in the use of the tool is planned for the next NEMO University.

Top map: 2002 forest cover map for Connecticut shows 59% forest cover. Bottom map: CLEAR forest fragmentation analysis shows interior forest areas (dark green) cover quite a bit less of the state (18%).

The National NEMO Network Newsletter is published twice a year by the National NEMO Hub. The National NEMO Network is a group of affiliated programs that educate local land use decision-makers about the relationship of land use to natural resource protection. The newsletter is coordinated by the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Program with funding from USDA and EPA. The National NEMO Network is a program of the UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR).

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