

CLEAR WORKSHOPS

About CLEAR Workshops

The University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) has several outreach programs that cover a wide range of topics designed to assist communities with land planning and management. This flyer gives brief overviews of CLEAR's workshop offerings and provides contact information for those wishing to discuss a workshop for their town or organization.

Contact CLEAR

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NEMO Workshops



The Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) program has been educating local decision makers on the relationship of land use

to water resource protection for 20 years! With time, our list of workshops has evolved. Although we still have a primary focus on water, the following list of workshops covers a lot of ground, including not only water-related topics but also wildlife habitat, forestry, and mapping tools available on the CLEAR website.

For more information contact: Mike Dietz, 860-345-5225, michael.dietz@uconn.edu.

► Planning for Stormwater

Impervious surfaces like asphalt, concrete and rooftops create polluted runoff and are a major indicator of the impacts of development on water resources. This workshop goes over planning and site design options to reduce both the amount and the impact of impervious surfaces. It also includes information on road and parking lot designs and alternative materials that promote infiltration. Additional information on this subject is available on the Tools and Resources section of the NEMO website.

► Managing Stormwater in Urban Areas

This presentation focuses on “restorative redevelopment” strategies and opportunities for managing stormwater in urban areas.



Planning and design considerations for stormwater-friendly roads, parking lots, roofs and other stormwater-generating surfaces are reviewed. This workshop touches on all the same areas as the *Planning for Stormwater* workshop, but with examples drawn from urban, rather than rural or suburban, landscapes.

► Using CLEAR Web Tools to Help Plan Your Community

CLEAR has created a number of web-based tools and mapping sites that can be used in a number of ways for characterizing and planning your community. These tools are all designed to be accessible to the average person armed with a web browser—no technical expertise necessary! Whether it's conducting a community resource inventory, creating an open space plan, or looking at low impact development practices, there is something on the CLEAR website for your town, commission, or land trust. Where possible, this workshop makes use of live demonstrations.

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NEMO Workshops continued...

nemo.uconn.edu/training/workshops.htm

► Open Space Planning

Even when land trusts and towns are actively seeking to protect open space, there is usually no concrete plan as to where, how or even why open space should be acquired. This presentation includes methods and options on how to inventory, prioritize and acquire open space.

► Natural Resource-based Planning for Watersheds

The NEMO team has found there are two major stumbling blocks to local watershed efforts, an inability to get started and an overload of maps/information. This workshop and its companion publication *"Natural Resource-Based Planning for Watersheds - A practical Starter Kit For Watershed Projects"* will outline a process that will help you get started.

► Rain Garden Training

"Rain gardens" are a popular site-level low impact development (LID) practice that use vegetation and native soils to help infiltrate and treat stormwater. Although not available on request, NEMO occasionally conducts two-day workshops for contractors and others on the proper methods to design, site, and build rain gardens. Please check with Mike Dietz (see page 1) for more information.

► Connecticut's Changing Landscape (CCL)

Using satellite images, the University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) has produced maps and charts documenting land cover change in Connecticut from 1985 to 2002. Highlighted are developed

areas as well as areas in agricultural and forest land cover. This research has for the first time provided a basis to compare land cover trends over time. This has proven especially useful in discussions on smart growth and sprawl issues that are often debated on emotion rather than hard research. The workshop reviews the research and describes how it might be used by local land use officials in resource inventories, open space plans, economic development plans and plans of conservation and development.

► Habitat-Based Management for Open Space

Conservation Commissions and land trusts permanently protect conservation lands, but often these lands are just left "as is," with no thought to long term management or restoration. This workshop goes through a series of simple steps to help create a land management plan that is based on maximizing the habitat

value of open space preserves. Topics include invasive species management, creation/maintenance of grassland and shrubland habitat, and other restoration techniques.

► Riparian Corridors

This workshop gives an overview of the functions and values of riparian (water-course) and wetland areas. It also reviews the latest CLEAR data, at both the state and local scales, showing land cover change during the past 20 years in riparian corridors. The workshop concludes with a discussion of strategies for better protecting these valuable natural assets, drawing from case studies from Connecticut towns.

► GIS in Your Town

The GIS workshop is designed to introduce municipal officials and volunteers to basic GIS concepts and terminology. The workshop presents information to help organizations understand some of the planning, management, database and application issues important to successful GIS programs.

► Forest Stewardship

Forest resources provide innumerable benefits to a community; watershed protection, wildlife habitat, aesthetic value, recreational value and even have the potential to provide commercial value. The Forest Stewardship workshop, conducted by the Department of Extension Forestry staff, can help landowners get the information they need to help protect and manage their forested land, now and in the future.

NEMO presents workshops for Connecticut's land use decision makers year round. The goal is to provide local boards and commissions with the information, education and assistance they need to balance economic growth with the protection of their town's natural resources and community character.

Geospatial Training Workshops

clear.uconn.edu/geospatial/training.htm



The Geospatial Training Program's goal is to help municipal land use officials, staff and commission members understand and apply geospatial information technologies to help solve local land use problems and to develop environmentally sensitive land use plans. The Program focuses on the use of geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing (RS) and global positioning systems (GPS) and introduces new users to these technologies through hands-on training courses. The trainings are also designed to teach GIS, RS and GPS users about digital data and to connect users with both public and commercial data producers and data providers.

For more information contact: Cary Chadwick, 860-345-5216.
cary.chadwick@uconn.edu.

► Geospatial Technologies at Work: An Introduction to GIS

This intensive three-day course introduces students to basic GIS concepts through the use of ArcGIS 10 software. It covers a wide range of topics and is designed for people with little or no experience with GIS; however, familiarity with PCs, file and folder management, and basic computing chores is required.

The course is organized into a series of topics that focus on specific GIS functions. Each topic is presented and discussed in a classroom setting and is followed by a hands-on lab exercise that uses the GIS tools discussed and demonstrates how the tools can be used to display, create, manage and analyze GIS data.



GTP's Cary Chadwick leads a geospatial training workshop at the National NEMO Network's 7th NEMO University conference.

► Pictures, Points & Places: An Introduction to GPS

Do you want to learn how to use a GPS receiver? Do you want to learn about free software that lets you make maps with your GPS data? Do you want to learn how to link GPS data to digital photos on a PC? Do you want to learn how to “publish” your GPS data and photos on Google Earth?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this is the course for you.

The Geospatial Training Program's goal is to help municipal land use officials, staff and commission members understand and apply geospatial information technologies to help solve local land use problems and to develop environmentally sensitive land use plans.

► Mashup Madness-Using Google Tools to Create Maps on the Web

This one-day training introduces participants to the basics of creating mapping “mashups” – interactive, online maps using free tools including Google Maps and Google Earth. This workshop explores the basics of Google's mapping tools and focuses on creating custom maps to share with others or embed on your own website. The workshop consists of a series of brief lectures and live demos followed by extensive hands-on exercises.

► Creating and Using Geospatial Models: Introduction to ModelBuilder

This one-day course introduces ArcGIS users to the capabilities and uses of ModelBuilder. The course is designed to explore how ModelBuilder works and how models can be created, edited and used to automate repetitive tasks or to run more complex analyses.

► Developing Custom Geoprocessing Tools: An Introduction to Python Scripting

This two-day course introduces ArcGIS users to the capabilities and uses of Python. Python is a relatively easy-to-use programming language that allows a user to combine the full capabilities of ArcGIS with the functionality of a scripting language. The course explores the use of Python to automate GIS tasks. The goal of the course is to provide students with the foundation and the resources necessary to develop proficiency with automating geoprocessing tasks with Python scripts.

Land Use Academy Workshops

clear.uconn.edu/lua



While the Land Use Academy is designed for new land use commissioners and those considering

becoming commissioners, it is also useful to current commissioners seeking to update or refresh their understanding of fundamental land use topics.

The day-long training is offered in locations across Connecticut, allowing commissioners statewide the opportunity to participate. The Land Use Academy is recognized as the state's official certification program in basic land use education for local commissioners. Every commissioner completing the Academy receives a certificate of recognition.

For more information contact: Bruce Hyde, 860-345-5229, bruce.hyde@uconn.edu.

► Roles and Responsibilities of Local Land Use Commissions

Part of the Land Use Academy, this course examines the duties, options, and interactions of local land use commissions, including planning, zoning, zoning appeals, conservation, inland wetlands, and economic development. Emphasis is on the enabling legislation behind the commissions. Regulations and Plans of Conservation and Development are also discussed.



► Legal Procedures for Local Land Use Commissions

In conjunction with the Land Use Academy, this course is taught by members of the Connecticut Bar Association. It details specific procedures to be followed by commissions as they conduct official business. Highlighted are: proper notification, freedom of information, meetings and hearings, decision-making, and ethical issues.

► Map Reading for Site Plan Review

A core course of the Land Use Academy, this is a class in basic map reading for commissioners. The workshop covers the essential components of maps and materials submitted in a typical site plan. Participants gain practical skills as they work together in hands-on exercises with scales, maps and site plans.

The Land Use Academy provides practical education on the fundamental knowledge and skills needed to serve effectively on a local land use commission. The Academy's basic training is offered in locations across Connecticut, allowing commissioners statewide the opportunity to participate.

The University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) provides information, education and assistance to land use decision makers, in support of balancing growth and natural resource protection. CLEAR is a partnership of the Department of Extension and the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the CT Sea Grant College Program. Support for CLEAR comes from the University of Connecticut and from state and federal grants.

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