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Contents

About CLEAR ........................................ 4
Highlights & Impacts ........................................ 6
- Research ........................................ 6
- Tools & Training .................................... 10
- Outreach Education ................................. 12
Upcoming Projects & Initiatives ...................... 14
Future Goals ........................................ 15
CLEAR Activities & Projects .......................... 15
- Partners & Cooperators .......................... 16
- Staff & Funding ................................. 17
Grant Funded Projects
- Research ........................................ 18
- Applications & Training Projects ................. 18
- Outreach Education Projects .................... 19
Selected Awards ................................ 21
Publications
- Journal Articles .................................... 22
- Magazine, Newsletter & Other Articles .......... 23
- Books ........................................ 23
- Abstracts & Proceedings .......................... 24
- Recent Websites & Web Tools Developed ..... 25
- Major Outreach Publications .................... 25
CLEAR Programs in Action ......................... 26

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CLEAR provides a unique resource to a wide variety of organizations and individuals, within Connecticut and beyond. The Center conducts remote sensing landscape research, develops landscape analysis tools and training programs and delivers outreach educational programs directly to Connecticut communities. Established in 2002, CLEAR is based in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and incorporates programs, faculty and staff from the Department of Extension, the Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering and other departments. In addition, CLEAR has a close relationship with the Connecticut Sea Grant College Program, located within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. CLEAR’s multidisciplinary and integrated approach to land use issues allows the Center to bring together three university-based national research and education networks: the USDA Land Grant, NOAA Sea Grant and NASA Space Grant College Programs.

CLEAR is comprised of a number of ongoing research, training and outreach programs, some of which date well before the formation of the Center. This report contains brief descriptions of some of the major projects undertaken by CLEAR faculty, information on Center staffing and funding, and lists of projects, publications, awards and other accomplishments. Although much of the information that follows is categorized into research, tools and training, and education “bins,” it should be noted that CLEAR takes particular pride in the high level of integration of its research, education, tool development and outreach functions.

This Report summarizes the major projects, partnerships and accomplishments of CLEAR (Center for Land Use Education and Research) during its first five years of existence, April 2002 - April 2007. More detailed information on CLEAR research, training and outreach programs can be found on the Center website (page 5), and on the websites of CLEAR’s component programs (pages 26 and 27).

CLEAR Programs

- NEMO Program (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials)
- National NEMO Network
- Geospatial Technology Program (GTP)
- Land Use Planning Program
- Land Use Academy
- Extension Forestry Program
- Green Valley Institute (GVI)
- LERIS (Laboratory for Earth Resource Information Systems)

See pages 26 and 27 for additional program information.
A Measure of Success

In late 2004 and early 2005, approximately a year after the web release of the Connecticut's Changing Landscape study, a graduate student at another university undertook a survey of Connecticut town officials to gather information about their use of geospatial technology and their technology and data needs. As part of that survey, she also asked a few questions about the recognition of CLEAR and CLEAR programs, and use of CLEAR websites and data. 74 of Connecticut’s 169 towns responded to the survey. The results show a very high degree of recognition and use, especially given the timing, less than 2 years after CLEAR’s debut.

Question:
Have you heard of any of these programs at the University of Connecticut? The graph below shows the percent of responding towns that were familiar with the CLEAR programs.

Question:
How have you used, or how are you planning to use, the CLEAR information? The graph below shows the percent of responding towns using or planning to use CLEAR information for a given purpose.

CLEAR Website
clear.uconn.edu

The CLEAR website is a major resource to a wide variety of Connecticut residents. During the first 6 months of 2007, an average of 4800 people per month visited the site and the web statistics show many of those visited multiple times (for a total average of 8200 visits to the site per month). The CLEAR website includes:

- Research results
- Maps, charts and data
- Educational program information
- Case studies
- Topical information on natural resource management
- Publications
- And more!

The CLEAR website is divided into three main sections, Research, Imagery and Data, and Education. Links to CLEAR programs’ websites can also be found on the home page.