

NEMO: Protecting & Restoring Long Island's Water Resource

With mounting state and federal environmental regulations and an economy dependent upon coastal business revenue, the protection of beaches, shellfishing areas, and habitats is another costly, yet essential, responsibility of Long Island's local governments.

For more than 11 years, the New York Sea Grant Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials Program (NYSG NEMO) has delivered the technical resources that Long Island officials need to make informed decisions about water resource protection.

Striving to ensure cost-effective expenditure of scarce municipal funds, NYSG NEMO, in keeping with NYSG's Sustainable Coastal Development Focus Area, has increased understanding of complex stormwater regulations and has advanced multi-jurisdictional water quality management approaches. These objectives were achieved through consultations, email and telephone support, and presentations. NYSG NEMO's email communications program (Phase II LI listserv) was used to disseminate information on trainings, case studies, research, and funding programs to more than 200 Long Island professionals and officials, and to enable them to share expertise and technical resources.

In 2011, NYSG NEMO served as Co-Chair of the Peconic Estuary Program's Stormwater Workgroup and acted as a catalyst in obtaining \$129,000 from Suffolk County and the Peconic Estuary Program to fund development of a Peconic Inter-municipal Agreement and



Inter-municipal initiatives ensure cost-effective water resource management. Photo: Eileen Keenan, NYSG NEMO

Strategic Implementation Plan to address water quality impairments, particularly bacterial contamination, through inter-municipal stormwater management planning.

Further, NYSG NEMO assisted in development and dissemination of a Peconic Municipal Stormwater Management Needs Survey, which will be used to inform the Inter-Municipal Agreement and Strategic Implementation Plan.

This formalized cross-jurisdictional approach to water quality restoration advanced by New York Sea Grant NEMO in 2011 will conserve financial resources, reduce the need to close shellfishing areas, and protect priceless Peconic beaches, bays and harbors.

This project meets the performance measures of Sea Grant's Sustainable Coastal Development focus area.

New York Sea Grant Extension administration is located at 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

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