

RAFT Fall 2023 Alumni Workshop
Lifting Equity in Climate Change:

Identifying Climate-Vulnerable People and Places in Your Communities

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Executive Summary

The RAFT's Fall 2023 Alumni Equity Workshop, entitled "Lifting Equity in Climate Change: Identifying Climate-Vulnerable People and Places in Your Communities" was held virtually on Thursday, November 30, 2023. The workshop was an opportunity for alumni localities from The RAFT's pilot phase, the Eastern Shore, Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and current localities in the Crater Region involved in The RAFT process to share their takeaways and progress on community resilience initiatives. Additionally, it also provided an opportunity for The RAFT Core Team and partners to solicit grounded input and valuable perspective on the challenges communities face regarding integrating equity into resilience planning to inform future work with Virginia localities.

Elizabeth Andrews, Environmental Sustainability and Resilience Practitioner Fellow at the University of Virginia's Environmental Institute, began the workshop by welcoming participants and introducing the newest RAFT university partner, Virginia Tech's Center for Coastal Studies. This kicked off presentations by RAFT community partners on topics such as approaches to community participation to ensure equity, equity in action at the local level, and broadening our understanding of vulnerable populations. Tanya Denckla Cobb, Director of the Institute for Engagement & Negotiation at the University of Virginia, led workshop participants through an interactive session to identify the emerging impacts of climate change that intersect with equity. Nicole Hutton, Associate Professor of Geography at Old Dominion University, presented on mini and micro grants as tools to amplify local resilience goals and catalyze grassroots action, and several recipients of The RAFT Fund's mini and micro-grants described impacts from this program. To wrap up the meeting, Tanya facilitated a second brainstorming session on sustaining equity and resilience at the local level.

This workshop was made possible by generous support from the Virginia Environmental Endowment. A full recording of the workshop is available on The RAFT's YouTube channel [here](#) and resources from this event will be made available on The RAFT [website](#).

Links to Workshop Resources:

[Workshop Agenda](#)

[Workshop Master Slidedeck](#)

[Link to Full Workshop Recording on Youtube](#)

Introductions and Workshop Goals – Elizabeth Andrews, Environmental Sustainability and Resilience Practitioner Fellow at the University of Virginia’s Environmental Institute

Elizabeth Andrews, Environmental Sustainability and Resilience Practitioner Fellow at the University of Virginia’s Environmental Institute, welcomed participants to the meeting and introduced Dr. Wendy Stout and Dr. Jessica Rich from the Center for Coastal Studies at Virginia Tech as new RAFT Core Team partners. She then introduced the goals of the workshop, stating that we are not aware of all the ways that community engagement is happening in The RAFT alumni communities, and want to learn more about that; and that we want to share what has been happening through RAFT implementation in various regions so that localities can learn from one another. Another goal of the workshop was to brainstorm with representatives from current and alumni communities about ways to sustain community momentum in resilience work, particularly around issues of equity.

Approaches to Community Participation to Ensure Equity: Lessons learned from Eastern Shore – Andre Elliott, YMCA of South Hampton Roads

Elizabeth Andrews introduced Andre Elliott, who serves as a community leader on a University of Virginia (UVA) Environmental Institute-led NSF Communities and People (“CoPe”) Eastern Shore of Virginia Climate Equity on the Eastern Shore project. Andre shared the formation of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) workgroup for healthy communities on the Eastern Shore and argued that climate equity fits perfectly into health and equity initiatives. Andre explained how the project also has used a community advisory committee to help with the implementation of initiatives. He described how the UVA team brought forth the idea of an equity atlas for the Eastern Shore as a community decision tool. He shared that the Eastern Shore Community College hosted the first climate equity workshop in 2022, which provided a forum for gathering anecdotal information and knowledge that does not often show up in government agency reports. As a result of the workshop, a living timeline was created as a platform for this knowledge.

For Andre, the most rewarding part of this work has been building relationships with researchers and team members from UVA and the research community. He was struck by how the UVA team wanted to hear what community members had to say, and they did not come into the community to force ideas on community members or influence decisions made by local leaders. In thinking about community resilience and equity, Andre noted that the most important factor for a successful collaborative project that is focused on resilience is that everyone involved is passionate about the outcome and wants to hear what community members have to say. He advised the group that if they are looking to implement a resilience project in partnership with communities, the first step must be to build relationships. A link to this presentation is available for viewing on YouTube [here](#).

Approaches to Community Participation to Ensure Equity: Lessons from Climate Equity workshop: Making Waves in Equitable Coastal Resilience: A National Workshop on Social Equity and Coastal Resilience – Nicole Hutton, Old Dominion University

In the second presentation from this section, Nicole Hutton shared take aways from another equity workshop that Old Dominion University (ODU) hosted last November directed at a national audience. The workshop centered around equitable coastal resilience and aimed to engage coastal communities and teach them how to conduct research related to the topic. The main goal of the workshop was also to better understand how successful coastal resilience projects should work. It was a three-day virtual workshop with around 38 people per day participating, including representatives from federal government agencies, state agencies, local governments, academia, and community organizations. The intended outcome of the workshop was the identification of research gaps and issues. Some of the main gaps identified were definitional concerns relating to resilience and equity, how to measure equity and coastal resilience, and a lack of funding to support research, implementation of programs, and community partners. The discussions relating to definitions centered around a few main questions:

- What does equity mean in the context of coastal resilience?
- What does success look like in projects and research? How do we track equity?
- How do we know we are making a difference?

Dr. Jessica Whitehead, Executive Director of the Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience at ODU, shared that a lack of success measures relating to equity and justice was a prominent theme in several chapters of the recently released National Climate Assessment, suggesting that the gaps identified at the workshop resonate nationally. A link to this presentation is available for viewing on YouTube [here](#).

Equity in Action at the Local Level – *Elizabeth Andrews, Environmental Sustainability and Resilience Practitioner Fellow at the University of Virginia’s Environmental Institute; Haley Moog, The Fox Moon Farm Project; and Chad Lewis, The Haven Shelter & Services.*

Next, the workshop had a panel discussion addressing how and why climate equity is broader than infrastructure or other issues faced by localities. Elizabeth Andrews first shared about the “tragedy of the resilience commons,” which expands upon the traditional “tragedy of the commons” concept to include human resources, community networks, and community services. This idea argues that when all community members and decision-makers are tasked with ensuring resilience, and no one is in charge and held responsible, people must seek resilience on an individual level; in which case many people and groups can be left out and their needs not addressed. This results in climate inequities. In contrast with the traditional, negative “tragedy of the commons” concept, research by political scientist Elinor Ostrom has shown that communities can work together to share resources successfully. On this note, a significant lesson from The RAFT work across localities in Virginia is that whole communities are essential for climate equity and resilience. Dr. Jessica Whitehead reflected that the traditional resilience concept places the burden on a community’s most vulnerable residents because in practice it requires those residents to adapt to a trauma that results from the actions of others outside of that community.

Haley Moog from the Fox Moon Farm Project also spoke on the panel, discussing The RAFT’s impacts at the agency level in the Middle Peninsula region. In her previous work with Thrive Virginia, Haley noticed several barriers to equity including structural racism, a lack of engagement, and, specifically in King and Queen County, a lack of transit, technology, resources regarding health and wellness, family resources, and opportunities for food access. The implementation of The RAFT process facilitated discussion and

collaboration across all these issues and created a stage for action moving forward. The RAFT also supported community-led work; Haley shared that The RAFT responded to community needs by forming a partnership with a local agriculture nonprofit and awarded them a micro-grant to break ground on a new community farm. Looking ahead, The RAFT-supported Regional Resilience Equity Workgroup in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula region will continue to support agency-level collaboration and community-facing initiatives.

Finally, Chad Lewis, Community Resilience Coordinator at The Haven Shelter & Services, shared his experience with The RAFT while serving as a community resilience coordinator in the Northern Neck region. He described how the Northern Neck faces overexploitation and over-extraction via gentrification, segregation, and colonization. The COVID pandemic exposed many inequities and vulnerabilities in the communities, and The RAFT was a helpful tool because the team did not come in with any assumptions or paternalistic solutions for the region's challenges. Instead, The RAFT team members were ready to listen to community members' concerns. Chad noted that it is particularly critical that partnering institutions on implementing equitable resilience projects do not function as "tumbleweeds" blowing in and out of localities, but rather establish roots and relationships of trust with community leaders and local organizations. The recording of this panel's presentations is available on YouTube [here](#).

Broadening our Understanding of Vulnerable Populations – Sierra Gladfelter, University of Virginia Institute for Engagement & Negotiation

Next, Sierra Gladfelter, Senior Associate at the University of Virginia's Institute for Engagement & Negotiation, presented on The RAFT's [Vulnerability Worksheet](#), which was developed in partnership with Richmond and Westmoreland Counties during The RAFT process in the Northern Neck from 2020-2021. This tool is designed to elevate, reveal, and identify different types of vulnerabilities, especially within populations that are marginalized or excluded from mainstream conversations. Flooding has long been the centerpiece of "resilience" efforts, but it is not the only challenge faced by communities. She shared two prior examples of the implementation of this worksheet conducted with Westmoreland and Richmond counties. This tool is available to all localities interested in digging deeper into a planning process for resilience that considers how diverse populations in a community can be vulnerable to hazards and identifying strategies for meeting their unique needs. The recording of this presentation, including examples of the tool in use, is available on YouTube [here](#).

Emerging Impacts of Climate Change – Brainstorm with RAFT Alumni & Current Communities; Facilitated by Tanya Denckla Cobb, Director, University of Virginia's Institute for Engagement & Negotiation

In the first interactive portion of the workshop, participants from RAFT alumni and current communities were asked, "What emerging impacts of climate change are you experiencing, seeing on the ground, or anticipating will affect your community in the coming years?" The goal was to understand what new and emerging impacts of climate change should be planned for in order to help update The RAFT scorecard. Detailed participant responses to this question are located in the workshop Participation Guide (See

Appendix A). A recording of this interactive session is available for viewing [here](#). A summary of the main topics and concerns discussed by participants were:

- Inland flooding
- Extreme weather events
- Climate migration and shifting communities to less risk-prone geographies
- Wildfires
- Air quality
- Just transition to renewable energy from extractive industries
- Solar farms and their impacts on land, stormwater, soil
- Demand for more Electric Vehicle charging stations
- Impacts of changing temperatures on crop survival and plant behavior
- Rising costs of disaster responses
- Resilience of Fire Departments and EMS systems as capacity is limited due to fewer volunteers, but fire and health hazards increase
- Rising costs of energy
- Responses to climate change introduce their own vulnerabilities (for example: fire safety with solar farms, electric vehicles)
- Personal health-related considerations for climate mitigation (diet, etc.)

Mini and Micro Grants as a Way of Amplifying Local Resilience Goals and Catalyzing-Supporting Grassroots Action – *Nicole Hutton, Old Dominion University; Tommy Hicks, Berkley Group; Darlene Watson, Bay Aging; Brent Hunsinger, Friends of the Rappahannock*

Next, Nicole Hutton took the Zoom stage to present on The RAFT's mini/micro grants program supported by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. She emphasized that the mini/micro grants are a model for local governments to amplify their resilience goals and catalyze local action to support their goals. There were then flash presentations by three recipients of these grants: Tommy Hicks (ETA Manager, Public Safety Division, Berkley Group), Darlene Watson (Housing Support Specialist, Bay Aging), and Brent Hunsinger (Tribal Programs Manager and State Policy Coordinator, Friends of the Rappahannock).

Tommy Hicks discussed his collaboration with The RAFT in his role at the Cople District Volunteer Fire Department, which received a \$5,000 micro grant to create inventories of resources that can be used in an emergency and workforce development initiatives and identify areas in need of improved signage, visibility, and safety to inform the Hazard mitigation Plan and improve the resilience around the Kinsale community of Westmoreland County. He also discussed the Regional Response Planning project, which he was involved in through his role as interim Director of Emergency Services in Essex County. With a \$5,000 micro grant, Essex hosted public safety meetings and meetings with partners on radio systems, and interoperability improvements, update mutual aid agreements, and geospatially enabled Essex County Emergency Plans for data sharing across the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula.

Darlene Watson shared the Rapid Rehousing Supplementation and Expansion project through Bay Aging, which was supported with a \$25,000 mini/micro grant. Bay Aging expanded its existing Rapid Rehousing

program to include financial support to pay application fees, accommodate clients who do not qualify under current funding guidelines, and provide landlord incentives.

Finally, Brent Hunsinger presented on the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission's Septic Tank Pump Out Assistance for Low-to-Moderate Income Individuals project, that was supported with a \$25,000 mini grant as well. A recording of these presentations is available to view [here](#).

Sustaining Equity and Resilience at the Local Level – *Brainstorm with RAFT Alumni & Current Communities; Facilitated by Tanya Denckla Cobb, Director, University of Virginia's Institute for Engagement & Negotiation*

In the second interactive section of the workshop and the final section overall, we discussed how community momentum is built during The RAFT process but inevitably wanes over time. One of the main reasons for this is a lack of sustained human resources to coordinate this work, schedule meetings, facilitate meetings, and create agendas. Participants were asked: What are challenges and barriers to continuing resilience conversations and collaboration at the local level? What ideas/ suggestions do you have for addressing/ overcoming these challenges and barriers?

Challenges and Barriers identified by participants included:

- Lack of funding
- Limited staff capacity and lack of people power at the local level
- Participation/buy-in of government leadership
- Changing community priorities
- Influx of new residents unfamiliar with past resilience work
- Disconnect between decision-making and lived experience

Suggestions for addressing and overcoming these barriers included:

- Small grants directly funding community priorities
- Funding to increase staff
- Put people with boots on the ground and lived experience in leadership roles
- Real and productive communication between organizations
- Help with communications planning and implementation for our residents, old and new.

Finally, participants were also asked: What other ways could The RAFT process and multi-university team expertise be helpful to supporting local resilience? Notable responses are below, and full participant responses to both sets of questions are located in the workshop Participation Guide (See Appendix A). A recording of this interactive session is available [here](#).

- As The RAFT has evolved, it has truly expanded into a larger view of resilience and maybe we could benefit from an expanded look that could pull together the work that has been done in the other communities.

- Additional participants and/or more funding or resources directed at finding funding for programming implementation in later rounds of The RAFT. A second round of The RAFT needs to be about looking for the resources (like funding) to continue projects.
- Better timing to plug into existing plans and processes like Comprehensive Plan updates and the state resilience planning process. Avoid duplicative work.
- It would be helpful to know if those communities that formed resilience committees, and weren't able to get/keep them going, would want to continue if it were a regional committee - which the PDC could possibly convene for them.
- The RAFT would be super helpful now (in 2nd round) for identifying funding sources for targeted resilience actions at local level.
- Help jumpstart LEPC - Local Emergency Planning Committees
- The fluidity of RAFT and its willingness to experiment has been one of the most helpful characteristics that RAFT has brought to the table.

Meeting Attendees:

1. **Cora Baird**, Director of UVA's Coastal Research Center on the Eastern Shore of VA
2. **Heather Barrar**, Regional Trails Director for the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River
3. **Susan Bates**, Coastal Science Program Manager at The Nature Conservancy
4. **Ruth Boettcher**, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
5. **Megan Bronson**, Coastal Resilience Project Assistant, Virginia Tech
6. **Stephanie Brown**, Vocational Counselor with DARS
7. **Alexis Burrell**, Population Health Coordinator for the Three Rivers Health District within the Virginia Department of Health
8. **Jackie Clayton**, Northumberland Department of Social Services
9. **Thomas Coye**, Reverend, St. Andrews Presbyterian
10. **Matt Dalon**, Resilience Planning Program Manager, Virginia DCR
11. **Lisa Deaton**, Virginia Land Conservation Assistance Network
12. **Cindee Dickens**, Government Liaison with Red Cross
13. **Andre Elliot**, Senior Executive Director, YMCA of South Hampton Roads
14. **May Fornari**, Environmental Justice Coordinator - Piedmont Region, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
15. **Ben Gluhosky**, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
16. **Sherry Graham**, Director of Planning with King William County
17. **Jay Grebe**, Director, Just Harvest
18. **Tammy Heath**, Mattaponi Tribe Environmental Manager, West Point
19. **Cornelius Holmes**, Reverend, First Baptist Church Tappahannock
20. **Lisa Hull**, Northern Neck Planning District Commission, Coordinator, Economic Development & Tourism
21. **Brent Hunsinger**, Tribal Programs Manager and State Policy Coordinator, Friends of the Rappahannock
22. **Luann Johnson**, President of Middle Peninsula Master Naturalists
23. **Leslie Krom**, Middlesex County Department of Social Services
24. **Hunter LeClair**, Assistant Director, Multifamily Housing Management, at Bay Aging and lead for the RREW Affordable Housing and Shelters Subcommittee
25. **Chad Lewis**, Community Resilience Coordinator; The Haven Shelter and Services, Inc.
26. **Vanesa Livingstone**, Richmond County Director of Social Services
27. **Brian Manning**, Appomattox Regional Library System
28. **Joy Marino**, Eastern Shore - Onancock Town Council
29. **Jonathan Matthews**, Virginia Department of Health, Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator for the Three Rivers Health District
30. **Carla Minor-Blake**, Community Outreach Liaison, Three Rivers Health District, Disabilities, Access and Functional Needs/Vulnerable Populations (D/AFN - Vul. Populations)
31. **Haley Moog**, Development Coordinator, Fox Moon Farm Project
32. **Matt Mooneyham**, Bay Aging AmeriCorps VISTA
33. **Stephen Moore**, American Red Cross-Disaster Program Manager
34. **Rebecca Morgan**, Director, Middlesex Department of Social Services
35. **Katie Nunez**, Eastern Shore - Cape Charles Planning & Zoning Director

36. **Hali Plourde-Rogers**, Executive Director, Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust
37. **Chontese Ridley**, Accomack County Planner I
38. **Brenden Rivenbark**, Chief Operating Officer, Three Rivers Health District
39. **Christina Ruszczuk-Murray**, Extension Agent, Virginia Cooperative Extension, King William and King and Queen Counties
40. **Queen Shabazz**, United Parents Against Lead & Other Environmental Hazards, Petersburg Community Resiliency Hub
41. **Danielle Simms**, Environmental Justice Coordinator, Va Dept. of Environmental Quality
42. **Naomi Siodmok**, Director of Planning, City of Petersburg
43. **Wanda Stewart**, President/CEO Communities In Schools of Petersburg
44. **Ronald Svejkovsky**, Tri-cities Area MPO/Crater PDC
45. **Alan Walker**, Bay Aging, Assistant Director, Multifamily Housing Development
46. **Darlene Watson**, Housing Support Specialist, Bay Aging
47. **Aaron Wendt**, Virginia Dept. of Conservation & Recreation - Shoreline Erosion Advisory Service
48. **Patricia Wolfrey**, Executive Director - Rappahannock Chapter at American Red Cross Virginia
49. **Kun Xie**, Assistant Professor, Old Dominion University

RAFT Facilitation Team:

1. **Elizabeth Armistead Andrews**, Environmental Sustainability and Resilience Practitioner Fellow, UVA Environmental Institute
2. **JD Brown**, Interim Project Manager, Institute for Engagement and Negotiation at UVA
3. **Tanya Denckla Cobb**, Director, Institute for Engagement and Negotiation at UVA
4. **Maddy Duval**, Graduate Student Research Assistant, Institute for Engagement and Negotiation at UVA
5. **Sierra Gladfelter**, Senior Associate, Institute for Engagement and Negotiation at UVA
6. **Nicole Hutton**, Associate Professor, Old Dominion University
7. **Sanika Mate**, Graduate Student Research Assistant, Institute for Engagement and Negotiation at UVA
8. **Monica Nichta**, Graduate Student Research Assistant, Institute for Engagement and Negotiation at UVA
9. **Jessica Rich**, Virginia Tech Center for Coastal Studies
10. **Wendy Stout**, Virginia Tech Center for Coastal Studies
11. **Jessica Whitehead**, Old Dominion University, Institute for Coastal Adaptation & Resilience (ICAR), The RAFT

Appendix A – Participation Guide Responses

Workshop Question 1: What emerging/ new impacts of climate change are you experiencing, seeing on the ground, or anticipating will affect your community in the coming years?

Emerging/ New Impacts of Climate Change		Your region/ location
wildfire		SW VA
EV Charging Facilities	Demand for more locations as we move to alternative modes of energy.	Tri-cities
Flooding from heavy precipitation (inland)		Eastern Shore of VA
Crops don't survive for numerous reasons (too much rain, too little rain, too warm/cold, pests, etc.)		
Poison ivy is becoming more prevalent and more poisonous		
Not getting cold enough in winter to kill pests or dormant time for plants/trees		Eastern Shore of VA
Rising costs of disaster responses (sheltering, feeding) relating to flooding, wildfires, etc.		Rappahannock Chapter and Nationally (American Red Cross)
Air quality		Statewide
Mosquito and other pests and related spraying facilitated by localities		
Rising energy costs / Dominion bills		

<p>Solar Farms</p>	<p>Impacts on forested land, stormwater impacts, soil impacts.</p> <p>Also, on solar farms: they go hand in hand with land grabs by energy companies.</p>	<p>Rural VA</p>
<p>Storms popping out of “nowhere”, so folks getting caught in storms while recreating or commuting- need for storm shelters on longer trail systems</p>		
<p>Just transition for workers from extraction to renewable energies</p>		
<p>Health consciousness appears to be making seafood more expensive (novelty- less red meat, etc.), even in our area</p>		
<p>The responses to climate change can introduce their own concerns or vulnerabilities. Solar farm batteries, electric vehicles, and commercial or residential battery banks present significant fire hazards. While fire departments are adapting, this is a significant concern for city/community planners to bear in mind prior to approval of more facilities.</p>		
<p>Climate Migration - Shifting populations to less risky areas. If not managed and planned, it will be a challenge to communities and resources. Where can we accept more</p>	<p>Future population projections should try to incorporate potential shifts due to climate change and not just economics.</p>	<p>Central VA -</p>

people and how do we want to do it/encourage it?		
Here's some info on the American Red Cross' entrance to the impact of climate change. https://www.redcross.org/about-us/news-and-events/climate-crisis.html		
Fire & EMS Departments that are reliant on volunteers have been seeing decreased numbers of volunteers for several years. If/when/as fire & health hazards increase, this deficit in responders will become more visible. As some communities switch to a paid responder structure, this will impact their budgets in significant ways.		

SUSTAINING EQUITY AND RESILIENCE

Workshop Question 2: What are challenges and barriers that you’re experiencing in your community to continuing resilience conversations and collaboration at the local level? What might help localities address challenges/ barriers?

Challenges/ Barriers to Continuing Resilience Efforts	What Might Help Localities Address Challenges/ Barriers?
Lack of funding	Small grants directly funding community priorities
Lack of people power	
Participation of government leadership	
Changing priorities of the community and this issue is no longer a “hot topic” or concern	
Influx of many new residents as by-product of COVID years and they are not familiar with our history/work on this matter.	Help with communications plan and implementation of said to our residents, old and new.

Limited staff capacity at the local level -	funding to increase staff
A Climate Corps (on the horizon)	FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Launches American Climate Corps to Train Young People in Clean Energy, Conservation, and Climate Resilience Skills, Create Good-Paying Jobs and Tackle the Climate Crisis The White House
buy-in and support from multiple levels	Stop making it so hard to get things done
disconnect	Put people with boots on the ground and lived experience in leadership roles vs the same disconnected discussions
communication	Real and productive communication between organizations

Workshop Question 3: In what ways could The RAFT process and multi-university team expertise be helpful in supporting your local resilience?

E.g., Second round of The RAFT process? Different RAFT process? Targeted support? Any and all ideas welcome!

Ways The RAFT process and team could be helpful in supporting your local resilience?	Your region/ location
When my community went through this process, it was truly focused on coastal resilience/sea level rise/flooding issues. As this group has evolved, it has truly expanded into a large resilience consideration and maybe we could benefit from an expanded look that could pull together the work that has been done in the other communities and see how it could be applied and utilized in my community.	Cape Charles/Eastern Shore - Katie Nunez
Better timing to plug into existing plans/processes like comp plan updates and the state resilience planning...honestly feels like some of this work is duplicative and I'm just repeating myself in meeting after meeting...	

<p>The first round seemed most helpful for networking and funding, but the 2nd round would need additional participants and/or more funding or resources directed at finding funding for programming implementation</p>	
<p>Help jumpstart LEPC - Local Emergency Planning Committees</p>	
<p>The fluidity of RAFT and its willingness to experiment, in my opinion, has been one of the most helpful characteristics that RAFT has brought to the table.</p>	
<p>I feel like the first round was about organizing and planning, plus some funding, to jumpstart projects. Now that we're organized, planned, and jumpstarted, I feel like the second round needs to be about looking for the resources (like funding) to continue them.</p>	
<p>Ideas from Lisa & Sherry in Northern Neck: 1) would be helpful to know if those communities that formed resilience committees, and weren't able to get/keep them going, would want to continue if it were a regional committee - which the PDC could convene for them?</p> <p>2) RAFT would be super helpful now (in 2nd round) for identifying funding sources for targeted resilience actions at local level</p>	

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For more information visit The RAFT website: raft.ien.virginia.edu

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