

RICHMOND COUNTY

Resilience Action Checklist

The RAFT | Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool



DEVELOP A RESILIENCE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Develop a strategy to improve communications both between County departments and with the public on topics encompassing hazard planning, emergency management, and resilience more broadly, paying particular attention to effective communication with vulnerable populations. In developing the strategy, coordinate with the Department of Social Services, schools, faith-based organizations, and Bay Aging, and incorporate complementary means of communication. Conduct outreach in English and Spanish. Cover topics including severe weather, evacuation zones, and septic information. Consider updating the CodeRED database to include weather alerts and group evacuation notifications by zone.

ESTABLISH A COORDINATION COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Create a long-term resilience coordination committee to implement the Resilience Communication Strategy, providing oversight and coordinating resilience efforts in the county beyond the one-year scope of The RAFT implementation team.

SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO ACQUIRE FUNDING TO EXPAND BROADBAND ACCESS

Identify and work to acquire funding (including subsidies) to expand broadband service by installing mid- and last-mile broadband infrastructure.

CREATE A COUNTY FORESTRY PLAN AND EXPAND FORESTRY PROGRAMS

Create a forestry plan for the county to increase tree canopy in urbanized areas (e.g., Warsaw) and along the coast; identifies target areas for riparian buffer plantings and wildfire buffers; and identifies existing core forest and agricultural lands that may be ideal for conservation easements. In addition, expand tree planting projects and giveaways, beginning in Warsaw, building off of existing VDOF and NNSWCD projects. Complete tree planting projects at Fones Cliffs Refuge tract.

DEVELOP UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR REGULATIONS

Contribute to the development of regulations for solar installations in the county (and region), by participating in the multi-county working group that is exploring rural utility solar expansion and its impacts. Ensure that these regulations will protect natural resources, environmentally sensitive areas, and waterways.

INTEGRATE RESILIENCE INTO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Review the Comprehensive, Hazard Mitigation, and Capital Improvement Plans for ways that resilience can be integrated, including sea level rise projections, flood hazards, septic and well inundation, wildfire risks,

mitigation, impacts on vulnerable populations, critical infrastructure and services, as well as potential funding mechanisms.

This checklist was developed by community participants in the online Resilience Action Workshop, conducted and facilitated by The RAFT three-university Collaborative Team on June 15th, 2020. This document is intended to be static and record the outcomes of that workshop. However, the checklist items and their details may evolve over the course of the year-long implementation of The RAFT in response to the changing circumstances and needs of the community.

Acknowledgment of Funders

This RAFT product was created with funding from:

Jessie Ball DuPont Foundation

We are grateful to these funders for supporting various phases of The RAFT from 2015-Present.

Anonymous

Environmental Resilience Institute at the University of Virginia

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

School of Architecture at the University of Virginia

Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program*

Virginia Environmental Endowment

Virginia Sea Grant Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program

For more information visit The RAFT website: raft.ienvirginia.edu

* This RAFT product, Task # 92.03 was funded, in part, by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program led by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality through Grant FY19 # NA19NOS4190163 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

The views expressed in The RAFT's various products are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of any of the funders mentioned above.

