

THE RAFT

Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool

Town of Warsaw

Scorecard Opportunity List

The RAFT Goal

To help Virginia's coastal localities improve resilience to flooding and other coastal storm hazards while remaining economically and socially viable.



raft.ien.virginia.edu



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

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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.

Introduction

The RAFT is a “full-service tool” and collaborative, community-driven process designed to assist coastal localities in increasing their resilience. It has three key components:

- **The RAFT Scorecard** provides a comprehensive assessment of the locality’s resilience.
- **A Resilience Action Workshop** where participants review the assessment findings, identify achievable action items and create a one-year Resilience Action Checklist.
- **Implementation** in which the RAFT Core Team works with a Locality Implementation Team to achieve items identified on the Resilience Action Checklist.

The RAFT Scorecard Opportunity List is designed to be used alongside the RAFT Scorecard to identify opportunities for strengthening resilience. These opportunities can then be more easily identified for inclusion in the Colonial Beach Resilience Action Checklist. This Opportunity List compiles potential action items identified from three sources:

- **HMP** actions are from the Hazard Mitigation Project List from the Northern Neck Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan
- **Sector Calls** actions are from input collected during calls held between the RAFT Core Team and sector leaders from across the Northern Neck
- **RAFT** actions are from the Colonial Beach RAFT Scorecard

In this way, the Opportunity List incorporates actions for resilience which have previously been locally identified as priorities, in addition to outcomes from the RAFT Scorecard results. However, the Opportunity List is not an exhaustive inventory of all possible actions for resilience. Localities may choose to include items on their Resilience Action Checklist that do not appear in this document.

This document is intended to serve as a personal resource. It will not be collected, nor shared by the RAFT Core Team. The columns “Ease” and “Impact” are left blank for your use in ranking and prioritizing opportunities, which can occur during or prior to the Resilience Action Workshop. When conducting these rankings, we encourage you to consider these questions: “How difficult will it be to accomplish this action?” and “What level of impact will completing this action create for reducing my community’s vulnerability?” Actions ranked highly for “Ease” and/or “Impact” may indicate their suitability for inclusion on your locality’s Resilience Action Checklist.

If you have questions regarding the content of this document, please contact Angela King, Assistant Director of the Virginia Coastal Policy Center at William & Mary at amking02@wm.edu.

CROSS-CUTTING OPPORTUNITIES

| SOURCE | ACTION ITEMS | TIME PERIOD | EASE Rank 0-10 | IMPACT Rank 0-10 |
|--------------|--|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Sector Calls | Improve communication and information distribution systems regarding social service provision to the general public, especially vulnerable communities: (1) coordinate between department of social services (DSS) and community organizations, including churches, (2) actively update DSS websites and improve their connectivity with county websites, (3) explore a revamp of Northern Neck Connect or another centralized online portal model (4) use radio, newspapers, Facebook page, sheriff's website to share info, (5) establish an information line (i.e. 211/511) line to connect individuals calling to the appropriate agency or service provider. | | | |
| Sector Calls | Learn and disseminate useful lessons from communities that are identified as having higher resilience to flooding and storm events (for example, Little Florida in Richmond County). | | | |
| Sector Calls | Improve government service provision to vulnerable populations (senior citizens, children) during and after emergencies. Improvements should be based on a discussion around community needs. Build on some successful/ongoing models like septic pump-out program; Lancaster Co. PD check-ins with seniors; Meals on Wheels; Richmond Resource Council – Bay Aging; The Orchard; Schools; Lancaster Co. LINK. | | | |
| HMP | Support mitigation projects that will result in the protection of public or private property from natural hazards. Eligible projects include but are not limited to 1. Acquisition of Flood prone property 2. Elevation of Flood prone structure 3. Minor structural flood control projects 4. Relocation of structures from hazard-prone areas 5. Retrofitting of the existing buildings, facilities, and infrastructure 6. Retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities for shelters 7. Critical infrastructure protection measures 8. Stormwater management improvements 9. Advanced warning systems and gauging systems (weather radios, reverse-911, stream gauges, I-flows) 10. Targeted hazard education 11. Wastewater and water supply system hardening and mitigation | | | |

1) LOCALITY LEADERSHIP, POLICY, AND COLLABORATION

| # | SOURCE | ACTION ITEMS | TIME PERIOD | EASE Rank 0-10 | IMPACT Rank 0-10 |
|-----|--------------|---|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1.1 | Sector Calls | Consider increasing funds for police department staff and resources in order to meet increased work demands during summer population increases, and to allow for capacity to conduct more proactive/mitigation efforts. | | | |

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|-----|--------------|---|-----------------|--|--|
| 1.1 | Sector Calls | Test new outreach methods to recruit public safety volunteers and create a plan for retaining existing volunteers: (1) convey the variety of roles available to support public safety efforts, and (2) increase partnership with public schools (creating a Firefighter 1 class). | | | |
| 1.1 | Sector Calls | Improve communication and planning between county staff, school staff, emergency managers, service providers and local DSS representatives for responding to and planning for emergencies. Work with the NNPDC to formalize tools, including (1) an emergency plan that outlines tasks and communication steps for the various organizations; (2) a roles and responsibilities map for emergencies that covers the county, DSS, community organizations, and households; and (3) a communication structure to facilitate coordination amongst the various entities. | | | |
| 1.1 | RAFT | Hold resiliency trainings events for elected officials and community leaders with resiliency experts as guest speakers. | 1-3 years | | |
| 1.1 | RAFT | Coordinate quarterly meetings for elected officials focusing on resiliency planning efforts. | > 3 years | | |
| 1.2 | RAFT | Include stakeholders and vulnerable populations in resiliency community meetings. | 1-3 years | | |
| 1.3 | Sector calls | Build on existing partnership between All Points Broadband, Dominion Energy, Northern Neck Electric Cooperative and the Counties of King George, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland to advance a regional broadband partnership to deliver fiber-optic broadband service to unserved households and businesses in the region. | | | |
| 1.3 | RAFT | Require at least one elected official to participate on every local resilience commission as a delegate. | 1-3 years | | |
| 1.4 | RAFT | Use data collected from Virginia university system in local floodplain, zoning, ordinance planning as well as in the comprehensive plan. | 1-3 to >3 years | | |
| 1.5 | RAFT | Research and participate in CRS Program. | 1-3 years | | |
| All | Sector Calls | Conduct a regional analysis of emergency management capacity, including geographic distribution of stations, EMS staff availability, travel routes and response times. Building on the shared resources model used between Lancaster County and lower Northumberland County, identify opportunities to improve response through mutual aid. | | | |
| All | Sector Calls | Invest in additional staff and trucks and establish additional EMS Stations for emergency management. | | | |

2) RISK ASSESSMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

| # | SOURCE | ACTION ITEMS | TIME PERIOD | EASE Rank 0-10 | IMPACT Rank 0-10 |
|-----|--------------|---|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 2.2 | RAFT | Hold community meetings about coastal hazards that are accessible to and aimed towards vulnerable populations. | <1 year to 1-3 years | | |
| 2.2 | RAFT | Hold emergency preparedness information sessions for vulnerable populations. | <1 year to 1-3 years | | |
| 2.3 | RAFT | Invite chamber of commerce to send representatives to mitigation and planning meetings. | 1-3 years | | |
| 2.5 | Sector Calls | Extend regional public radio coverage, perhaps via coordinated expansion/improvement effort | | | |
| 2.5 | Sector Calls | Improve public outreach and education around evacuation, with the goal of influencing more residents to evacuate in hazardous situations. Circulate more broadly maps such as the FEMA Flood Zone and Hurricane Evacuation Maps which allow residents to search their address and identify their flood risk and evacuation zones. | | | |
| 2.5 | RAFT | Develop a resident emergency plan that identifies risks and needs. | <1 year | | |
| 2.5 | RAFT | Engage residents through community outreach and training/drills. | <1 year | | |

3) INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE

| # | SOURCE | ACTION ITEMS | TIME PERIOD | EASE Rank 0-10 | IMPACT Rank 0-10 |
|-----|--------|---|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 3.1 | RAFT | Provide incentives for private property activities that manage stormwater such as tax deductions or flag program (i.e. River Star Homes). | <1 year to 1-3 years | | |
| 3.1 | RAFT | Identify minimum state requirements and compare to local requirements. | 1-3 to >3 years | | |

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|-----|--------------------|---|----------------------|--|--|
| 3.2 | Sector Calls, RAFT | Work with VDOT to Identify and evaluate vulnerable transportation infrastructure, and conduct an analysis of road wash-outs – working in coordination with counties throughout region where applicable. | Ongoing | | |
| 3.2 | RAFT | Identify backup infrastructure in case emergency infrastructure fails or is damaged in storm event. | <1 year | | |
| 3.3 | Sector Calls | Understand and work to reduce the vulnerability of septic systems by creating an inventory and map, coordinating with the plans being developed by VDH and VIMS, which plan to launch a pilot project with ODU staff. | | | |
| 3.3 | RAFT | Update water supply plan to address coastal hazards and dangers they pose to portable water. | 1-3 years | | |
| 3.3 | RAFT | Hold public educational events and disseminate educational materials about safe drinking water and what to do in case a storm impacts their water supply. | <1 year | | |
| 3.4 | RAFT | Identify emergency services’ weaknesses and address how to fix them. | 1-3 years | | |
| 3.4 | RAFT | Identify backup plan and identify the necessary parties. | <1 year to 1-3 years | | |
| 3.5 | RAFT | Offer fund-matching or tax incentive programs for homeowners to participate in nature-based landscaping projects. | 1-3 to >3 years | | |

4) PLANNING FOR RESILIENCE

| # | SOURCE | ACTION ITEMS | TIME PERIOD | EASE Rank 0-10 | IMPACT Rank 0-10 |
|------------|--------------|---|-------------|----------------|------------------|
| 4.1 4.2 | HMP | Integrate mitigation plan requirements and actions into other appropriate planning mechanisms such as comprehensive and capital improvement plans. | | | |
| 4.1 4.4 | Sector Calls | Support homeowners to elevate their homes, building on the Northern Neck Hazard Mitigation Grant Home Elevation Program, in places with flood risk that are not projected to be uninhabitable based on sea-level rise projects. | | | |
| 4.2 | RAFT | Ensure comprehensive plan includes community input on coastal resilience. | <1 year | | |
| 4.2 | RAFT | Ensure comprehensive plan includes strategies to mitigate coastal hazards and reduce vulnerability. | <1 year | | |

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|-----|------|--|-----------------|--|--|
| 4.2 | RAFT | Ensure comprehensive plan includes potential impacts on critical infrastructure and services, especially regarding vulnerable populations. | <1 year | | |
| 4.3 | RAFT | Establish or enforce setback laws in flood-prone areas. | 1-3 to >3 years | | |
| 4.3 | RAFT | Identify high risk areas and implement green infrastructure projects in those areas. | 1-3 to >3 years | | |

5) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING

| # | SOURCE | ACTION ITEMS | TIME PERIOD | EASE Rank 0-10 | IMPACT Rank 0-10 |
|-----|--------------|---|----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 5.1 | RAFT | Adopt a written policy statement regarding the roles of residents, commercial enterprises, and other stakeholders in coastal resilience. | 1-3 to >3 years | | |
| 5.1 | RAFT | Create a coastal resilience committee and assign staff roles. | <1 year to 1-3 years | | |
| 5.2 | RAFT | Create audience-appropriate information guides, signs, brochures, social media posts informing the public about coastal resilience and economic risks associated with storm events. | <1 year | | |
| 5.4 | Sector Calls | Explore alternatives to traditional health provision models, including community paramedicine and telemedicine. Telemedicine efforts must go hand-in-hand with connectivity infrastructure expansion. There is an opportunity to build on an existing pilot project out of VCU in Westmoreland, Essex, and Richmond Counties. | | | |
| 5.5 | RAFT | Gather data on physical and mental well-being of population. | >3 years | | |
| 5.5 | RAFT | Identify trusted communication messengers for vulnerable populations. | <1 year | | |
| 5.5 | RAFT | Partner with NGOs and community groups to identify needs of vulnerable populations. | <1 year | | |
| 5.5 | RAFT | Make plans to best help vulnerable populations during emergencies in conjunction with community groups. | <1 year to 1-3 years | | |