

ANNUAL REPORT



2022

2022

A YEAR OF:

Community Action

Environmental Justice

Preparedness

Organizational Growth



Executive Summary

2022 was a year of community action, environmental justice, preparedness, and organizational growth for Resilient Virginia. Last year, the organization:

- Increased membership by 131% from 2021 numbers;
- Developed and produced 8 Resiliency Academy sessions with a registration increase of about 25% from 2021 registration numbers;
- Hosted an Annual Meeting, our first-ever hybrid event, where we met with about 70 colleagues in Charlottesville and virtually;
- Launched a Member Portal where Resilient Virginia members can access slides and recordings from previous events and connect with other members of the organization;
- Took steps toward launching the Resilient Virginia Collaborative Alliance;
- Partnered with Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia to build workforce capacity through engagement with over 40 undergraduate and graduate students;
- Partnered with Sobis Inc, under a grant from Piedmont Environmental Council, to develop Albemarle County's Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment;
- Partnered with Sobis Inc, Leslie King Consulting, and other Lynchburg-based organizations and institutions to start Lynchburg Rising – an environmental justice project funded by a grant from the US EPA Office of Environmental Justice;
- Advocated for regional resilience through participation in Resilient Fairfax's Community Advisory Group and Roanoke's Flood Resilience Plan Steering Committee;
- Advocated for a statewide approach to resilience through participation in VA DEQ's Flood Resilience Outreach Strategy Plan NGO advisory group and VA DOT's Environmental Stakeholders Engagement Group.

Sponsorship and Membership

In 2022, Resilient Virginia saw an exponential jump in membership, interactions on our social media pages (LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter), and registrations for our quarterly newsletter.

Member benefits

- Bi-monthly Member Briefs;
- Discounts to all Resilient Virginia events;
- Access to our Member Portal; and
- An invitation to our Listening Sessions.

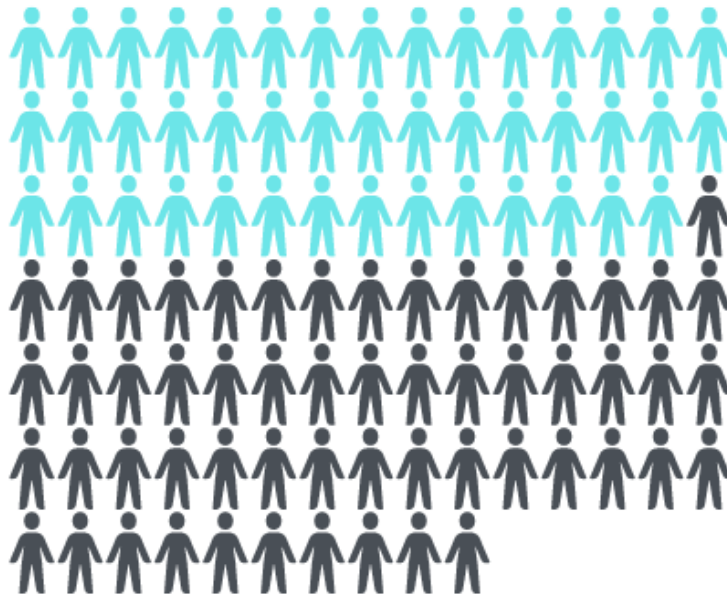


2022 Sponsors

- Cox Communications (Annual Sponsor – Energizer and Resiliency Academy Sponsor)
- Witt O’Brien’s (Annual Sponsor – Energizer)
- Clark Nexsen (Annual Sponsor – Community Leader)
- Marion Enterprises (Annual Sponsor – Community Leader)
- Tetra Tech (Annual Sponsor – Community Leader)
- Virginia Energy (Annual Meeting Sponsor)
- Stantec (Annual Meeting Sponsor)
- Virginia Resources Authority (Resiliency Academy Sponsor)
- TomorrowToday (Resiliency Academy Sponsor)
- Launch! Consulting (Resiliency Academy Sponsor)
- Virginia Clean Cities (Resiliency Academy Sponsor)



131% Increase in
Resilient Virginia
Membership



Annual Sponsors

— Energizers —



WITT O'BRIEN'S
PART OF THE **AMBIPAR** GROUP

— Community Leaders —



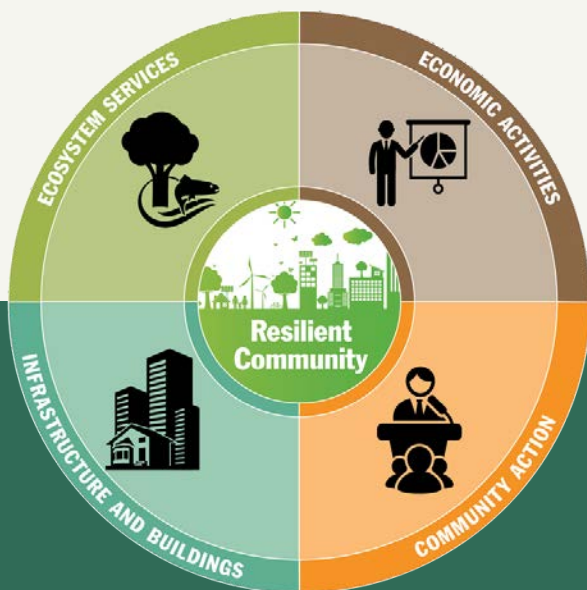
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Informing, Educating, and Collaborating

2022 Resiliency Academy Series and Annual Meeting

Extreme weather events are increasing in Virginia, causing damage and disruption to communities across the state. This only escalates the need for communities to plan for resiliency. Because of this, we carefully chose topics and speakers for our educational seminars that would best meet the specific needs of Virginia's communities. Our series were centered on the four main components of a resilient community and included the following topics:

- Innovative Financing for Resilience
- Tools for Resiliency Planning
- Utilizing Green Infrastructure
- Resilient Transportation
- Investing for Resilience
- Disaster-Resilient Buildings
- Mitigating Climate Impacts with Forests, Farms, & Fields
- Creating Resilience Hubs for Community Safety
- Progress in Addressing Climate Impacts
- Local Government Case Studies



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We chose to keep our Resiliency Academy a virtual event, believing that is the most equitable way to educate communities across the entire state. We were fortunate to have 31 expert speakers join us for these events who shared their knowledge of funding opportunities, resilience strategies, relevant policies, and present their own experience in resiliency planning. Resiliency Academy average registration increased approximately 25% from 2021 registration numbers. Registrations came from many sectors, including local, state, and federal government, higher education (students and faculty), community organizations, and business.

SAVE THE DATE — SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!
COMPONENTS OF A RESILIENT COMMUNITY
Four webinars from the Resiliency Academy

MARCH 10
Economic Activities: Innovative Financing

APRIL 7
Community Action: Tools for Resiliency Planning

MAY 12
Ecosystem Services: Green Infrastructure Utilized

JUNE 9
Infrastructure and Buildings: Progress Report

Fall 2022 Resiliency Academy
Components of a Resilient Community

September 29
Investing in Resilience

October 27
Building for Resilience

November 17
Mitigating Climate Impacts with Forests, Farms, and Fields

December 15
Creating Resilience Hubs for Community Safety

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On June 30th we held our Annual Meeting at the Department of Forestry Office in Charlottesville with the option to join virtually. About 70 colleagues joined us for this hybrid meeting. This was our first in-person event since 2020 and our first-ever hybrid event. For the meeting, we chose to highlight the progress that Virginia is making in addressing climate impacts. Included in the presentation were three examples of Virginia communities taking action. Representatives from Albemarle County, Fairfax County, and the Town of Blacksburg spoke to the gathering about how their communities have started to effectively address the climate impacts they are experiencing.



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Resilient Virginia Collaborative Alliance

In 2022, Resilient Virginia began the soft launch of our Resilient Virginia Collaborative Alliance (RVCA). The RVCA will empower local and regional governments, academic institutions, community groups, and the private sector to collaborate, share resources and tools, secure funding, and streamline the process of resiliency planning in these communities. This Collaborative will ultimately help communities in the Commonwealth more efficiently and effectively mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. In 2022, we worked with Virginia Tech graduate students to perform a feasibility study and strategic plan for the Collaborative, and began securing Founding Sponsors.



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Partnering with Universities to Build Workforce Capacity

Resilient Virginia partnered with Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia to build workforce capacity through engagement with over 40 university students in 2022.

Specific projects included:

- Guiding a team of 3 UVA undergraduate students, over two weeks, through an analysis of local Virginia comprehensive plans and hazard mitigation plans in which they identified resiliency language and concepts. See Integrating Resiliency Language Into Existing Plans.
- Guiding a team of 3 UVA undergraduate students, over two weeks, through a review of Virginia's Coastal Resilience Master Plan and VASEM's report, "Impact of Climate Change on Virginia's Coastal Areas". Based on their findings, they then identified resources and made recommendations for developing regional resiliency plans for rural, non-coastal areas of the state.
- Co-developing an assignment with Virginia Tech's Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability (CLiGS). This month-long assignment gave graduate students the opportunity to do a feasibility study on resilience collaboratives, specifically for rural, inland areas. Their research is laying the groundwork for our Resilient Virginia Collaborative Alliance.
- Hosting an undergraduate UVA student for a summer internship. This student went through a vast list of resources we have been accumulating for our Resource Hub – summarizing the resource, categorizing and tagging them according to our 4 Main Components of a Resilient Community, and developing a master spreadsheet.
- Guiding 2 Virginia Tech graduate students through their Independent Development Projects which took a deeper dive into resilience collaboratives, focusing on communications, outreach, and strategic planning.



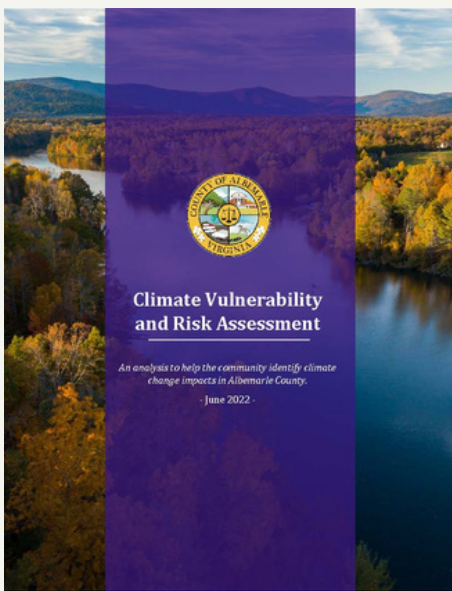
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Community Activation and Outreach in Albemarle County, Fairfax County, Roanoke, and Lynchburg

Albemarle County

Resilient Virginia partnered with Sobis Inc under a grant from Piedmont Environmental Council to develop Albemarle County's Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment. The report analyzes primary hazards the county will face in the future, who and what will be most vulnerable to the hazards, and what risks will be most likely.



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Fairfax County

A Resilient Virginia staff member served on Resilient Fairfax's Community Advisory Group. This group met periodically to provide input and insight to staff from the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination, who were primarily responsible for the development of the county's Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan.



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Lynchburg

Resilient Virginia partnered with Sobis Inc, Leslie King Consulting, and other Lynchburg-based organizations and institutions to start Lynchburg Rising – an environmental justice project funded by a grant from the US EPA Office of Environmental Justice. We had broader community outreach efforts at Lynchburg’s Farmers Market and multiple events around the City. On December 13th, we held the first of four neighborhood meetings. These meetings will be a space for community members to open up about their experience with flooding.



Learn More



Climate Risks in Lynchburg

How will the changing climate affect you?

In Virginia, more than 900,000 people live in areas at elevated risk of inland flooding.

Inland flooding is predicted to increase in Lynchburg. This will not only threaten properties, but also potentially cut off access to emergency services and transportation, and impact the overall economic well-being of the area.

Increasing temperatures are another primary concern in Lynchburg which means more hot, potentially dangerous days throughout the year and longer heat waves.

What to Expect and Why it Matters

MORE INTENSE RAINFALL

An increase in short bursts of heavy rainfall is a key factor in flash flooding and tsunamides.

The rapid onset of flash flooding limits time to issue warnings and get residents out of harm's way.

Intense rainfall events can harm our farms and other natural resources.

What Can You Do?

Listen to national and local alerting systems such as Lynchburg Alerts for current emergency information and instructions.

Know where to go and what to do if there is an emergency.

Plant trees, shrubs, and grasses along banks to prevent run-off during intense rain events.

What to Expect and Why it Matters

WARMER WINTERS

Homes and buildings that were not at risk for flooding in the past could now be in harms way.

Flooding can cause illness, injury, and death, as well as destroy homes and damage buildings.

Flooding can bring sewer contamination into homes and buildings and pollute drinking water.

What Can You Do?

Make a plan for your family and pets in response to what to do if there is a flood.

Make an emergency kit with non-perishable food, water, clothing supplies, and other necessities.

Know your evacuation route in case of a flash flood.

Look into getting flood insurance.

What to Expect and Why it Matters

LONGER STREAKS OF 90°+

Extreme heat is a serious health hazard and can lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Hotter days worsen air quality.

Extreme heat disproportionately impacts children, low-income households, outdoor workers, and people with chronic illnesses.

What Can You Do?

Stay cool at a cooling center, library, or mall.

Weather strip your doors and windows.

Cover windows with shades or shades.

Unable to afford your cooling costs? Call 1-800-676-2327 to inquire about the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Climate Equity

Our climate is changing and this is disproportionately impacting minorities and those with lower incomes.

Why is that?

First, because of systemic racism and inequitable policies, these groups have been forced to live in places that have more hazards and are becoming more places to live.

Second, historically, funding and resources for these projects have not been equitably distributed to those who need it the most after years of the fight.

Third, under-resourced communities struggle in the face of adversity to create climate-resilient plans and develop shared work plans.

What is Climate Equity?

Climate equity makes sure that everyone, despite their race, gender, religion, cultural background, and other factors has equal access to the benefits of climate protection efforts and is not subject to unique burdens created by climate change.

What Does Equity Have to do With Climate Change?

Climate Change	Equity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excessive fossil fuel and other use More carbon emissions Energy efficiency Renewable energy Energy independence Electric vehicles Green buildings Healthier communities Land-use and transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equity demands that we take the needs of those least likely to be able to afford it into account Resilient communities are more inclusive and participatory Our actions and policies should be equitable Positive health outcomes for all Resilient cultural differences Proactive and inclusive

What Can You Do?

Speak Up and Take Action

Share your first-hand stories of climate-related impacts with the public and government decision-makers

Help researchers, non-profits, educational institutions, and others collect data in your community

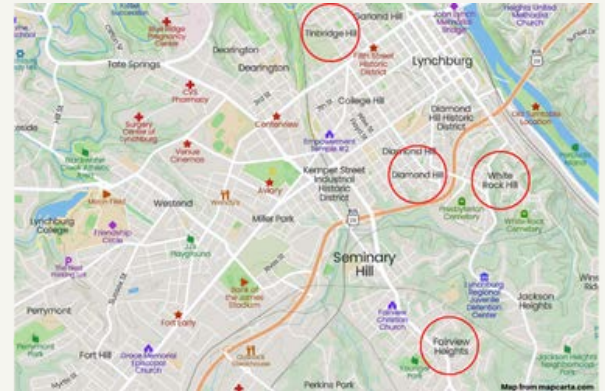
Push your local government to implement projects that simultaneously address climate change and inequity

Find groups working on climate equity in your community and get involved

Arm yourself and your community with facts

Demand accountability

Learn more

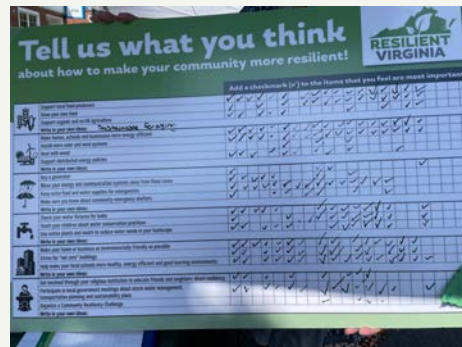


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Roanoke

As a sponsor of Earth Day Roanoke 2022, Resilient Virginia staff spent a beautiful Saturday meeting new people and letting them know what we do. We met many people who were interested in learning more about resiliency, found out what aspects of resiliency are most important to the public - tied for first were "Make homes, schools, and businesses more energy efficient" and "Install more solar and wind systems", and we learned about other organizations out there working on making Southwest Virginia a vibrant place to call home for years to come.



A Resilient Virginia staff member is serving on the Roanoke Flood Resilience Plan Steering Committee to help the City of Roanoke achieve their goals of:

- Identifying natural hazards and vulnerabilities, especially those for the most at-risk portions of the community;
- Analyzing current capacity and proposing strategies and solutions; and
- Developing a scorecard to rank projects with the most impact, with a focus on equitable ranking.



Taking a Statewide Approach

Resilient Virginia continued to advocate for a statewide approach to resilience in 2022. Resilient Virginia staff serve as topic experts on a variety of advisory groups throughout the state, including Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Flood Resilience Outreach Strategy Plan NGO advisory group, Virginia Department of Transportation Environmental Stakeholders Engagement Group, MARISA's Year 8 Advisory Committee, and the Tree Roundtable Virginia Strategy Session. We are able to provide insight into the public's resiliency needs and wants based on our Listening Sessions, surveys, and on-going communication with Virginia communities.



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Looking Forward to 2023

Resilient Virginia started 2023 off with new projects and events to plan. The organization is:

- Securing final Founding Sponsors for the Resilient Virginia Collaborative Alliance and moving to the soft launch phase;
- Working on building out the Resource Hub and relaunching our website;
- Partnering with Virginia Energy and other organizations and institutions to work on a Renewables Advancing Community Energy Resilience (RACER) project funded by the US Department of Energy;
- Partnering with Virginia Commonwealth University and other organizations on a metro-Richmond area environmental justice data collection grant project awarded by the Winward Fund;
- Developing and producing the 2023 Resilient Virginia Conference, a hybrid event to be held this summer; and
- Planning for the Fall Listening Sessions.



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