



Resilient Virginia Collaborative Alliance

Creating Climate-Ready Communities in Central and Southwest Virginia

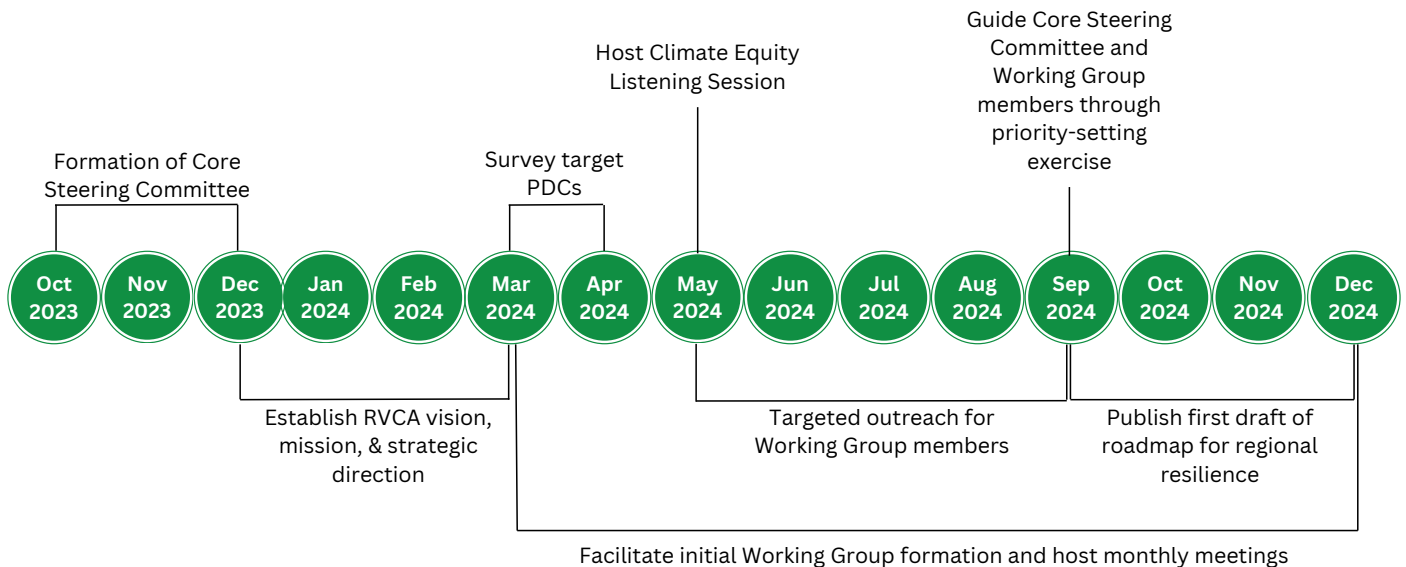
Resilience Challenge

To date, extensive resiliency planning and projects have been limited to the coastal region of the Commonwealth, while the central and southwest regions remain typically under-resourced. This leaves them more vulnerable to increasing threats from extreme weather events and unpredictable climate patterns. These climate impacts exacerbate existing economic, environmental, health, equity and other community challenges. It is critical to identify, address, and prepare for these risks and challenges so that communities can continue to be vibrant and secure places to live and work.

Resilience Solution

The **Resilient Virginia Collaborative Alliance** is building capacity to address equity, economic, social, and climate challenges in under-resourced communities in the central and southwest parts of the state. By convening regional stakeholders, we are gaining a better understanding of their top priorities and concerns while offering a platform for peer-exchange, training opportunities, and building partnerships. This aggregation of regional voices amplifies their priorities and concerns to state leaders, giving them a better chance of receiving the resources they need to build climate-ready communities.

October 2023 - December 2024



Resilient Virginia worked with the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) between October 2023-May 2024 to formally establish the RVCA. The funding for this work came from ISC's Urban Equity Climate Compact cohort program.

Collaborating for Greater Impact

Resilient Virginia

In order to centralize outreach and action, collaborations need a foundational backbone. Since 2014, Resilient Virginia has been a nonpartisan organization facilitating relationships between government, nonprofit, business, community, academia, and private sector entities to accelerate resiliency planning. As such, we are distinctly positioned to be the backbone organization on which the RVCA functions. We are uniting these sectors to define priorities, share resources and tools, and streamline the process of resiliency planning and project funding in Central and Southwest Virginia.

Core Steering Committee

The Core Steering Committee was established in Fall 2023 with grant funding from the Institute for Sustainable Communities. The committee worked with Resilient Virginia to:

- Establish the collaborative's vision and mission;
- Identify the most beneficial direction for the collaborative; and
- Delineate action plans through the development of initial working groups.

The Core Steering Committee remains active and meets monthly to discuss the formation of additional working groups, identify additional stakeholders, and ensure the collaborative's programs add value to the resilience of Virginia.

Working Groups

RVCA working groups are where the rubber meets the road. They offer a space to spotlight top-priority issues such as energy, water infrastructure, transportation, or job creation. Working groups consist of cross-sector stakeholders coming together for partnership, peer-exchange, education, and capacity-building. Resilient Virginia has not defined a model for working groups to work under, rather, each group is led by a facilitator and they work together to decide what would be most beneficial for them. This could include things such as taking on a specific project, meeting monthly for peer-exchange, or bringing in expert speakers for training. In April 2024, two working groups started monthly meetings focused on clean transportation and water infrastructure. Agriculture and emergency management working groups are being formed in May 2024.

Funding Partners

As community leaders in our Commonwealth, Funding Partners are in a prime position to be effective change-makers through the Resilient Virginia Collaborative Alliance. The collaborative is a platform where multidisciplinary sectors come together to share ideas and discuss best practices, ultimately resulting in stronger communities. Supporting this work, a Funding Partner is recognized as a company or organization that champions these collaborative efforts. Funding Partners provide essential support for long-term climate resilience throughout Central and Southwest Virginia.

RVCA Funding Partners (as of May 2024)



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