

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Dover, Delaware, featuring a river, various buildings, and green spaces. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue filter. The text is centered and white.

The 10th Anniversary

RASCL Summit

Making Space for Sustainable Growth and
Resilience: The Role of Land Use Planning

Thursday, March 5, 2026 | 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Del-One Conference Center | Dover, DE

What is RASCL?

A collaborative network of state agencies, non-profit organizations, and academic institutions that:

Support all Delaware communities in taking the necessary actions to thrive in the face of changing environmental conditions through collaboration, information sharing, and technical assistance.

RASCL Steering Committee:



Member Organizations:

STATE AGENCIES

Delaware Emergency Management Agency
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Delaware Department of Transportation
Delaware Division of Libraries
Delaware Division of Public Health
Delaware Forest Service
Delaware Geological Survey
Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination
Delaware State Housing Authority

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Center for the Inland Bays
Delaware League of Local Governments
Delaware Nature Society
Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility
Delaware Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
Green Building United
National Wildlife Federation Mid-Atlantic Regional Center
The Nature Conservancy PA/DE Chapter
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
Sussex County Land Trust

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

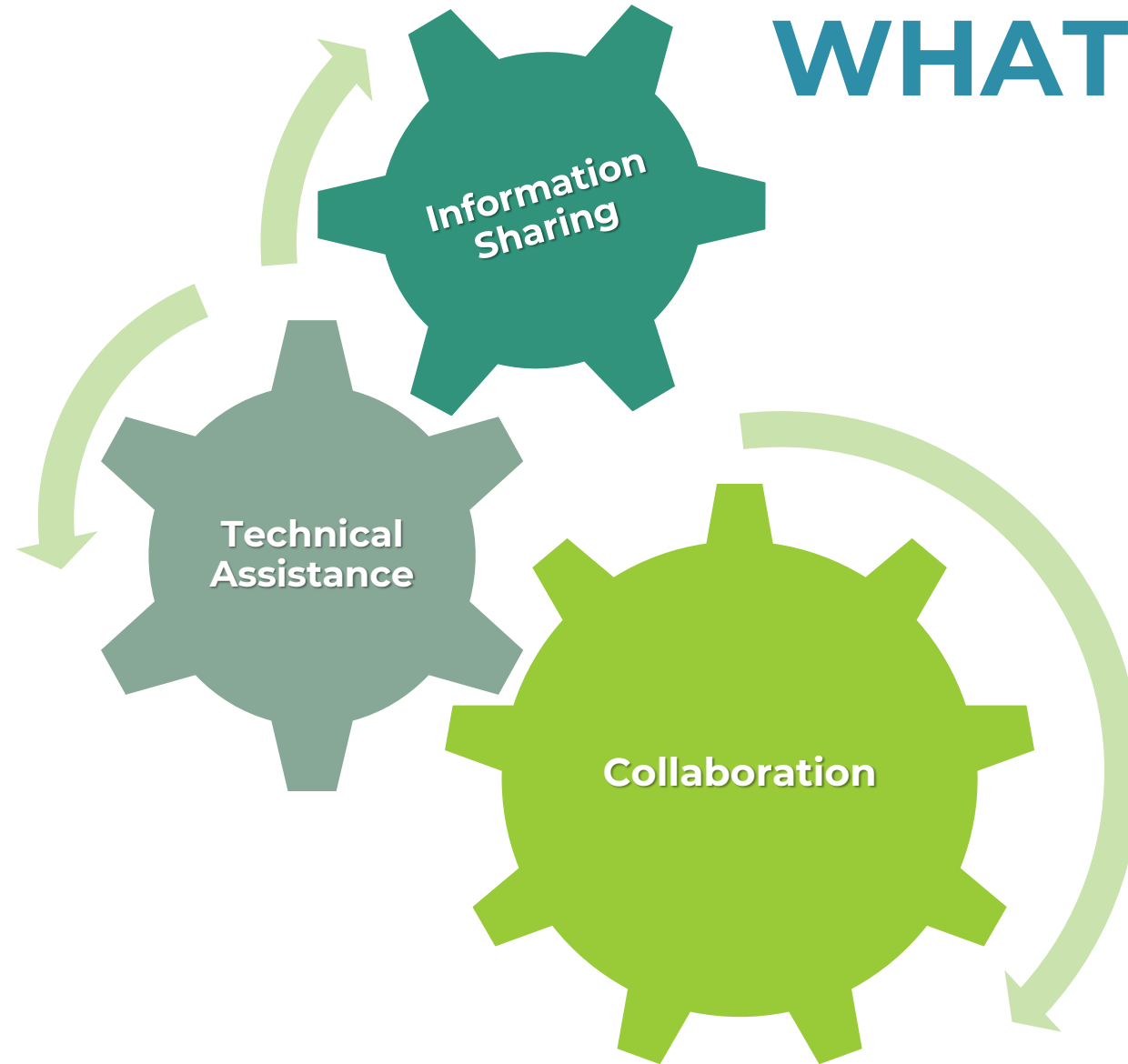
Delaware Center for Environmental Monitoring and Analysis
Delaware Environmental Institute
Delaware Sea Grant
University of Delaware Coastal Resilience Design Studio
University of Delaware Grant Assistance Program
University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration
University of Delaware Office of Sustainability
University of Delaware Water Resources Center
University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center

WHAT WE DO

Climate
Resilience

Sustainable
Land Use and
Infrastructure

Hazard
Mitigation
and
Emergency
Management



Guiding Principles

Strength in Collaboration

Excellence Through Shared Learning

Holistic Approaches

Inclusive and Community-Driven Solutions

Empowering Local Capacity

Forward-Thinking Planning

Science-Based Decision-Making

Authentic Community Engagement

Adaptability and Resilience

Why RASCL?

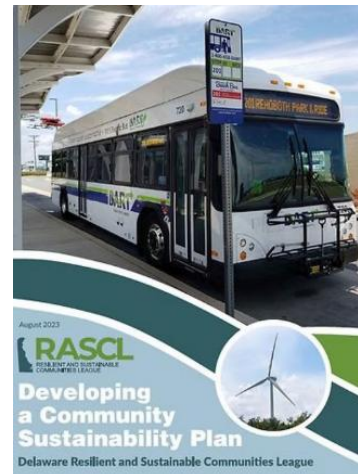
- More coordination needed
- Many communities lacked the capacity to undertake efforts on their own
- No network for climate resilience and sustainability professionals
- Science-based information and best practices needed wider dissemination

Since RASCL's Establishment:

- Communities are more likely to consider resiliency and sustainability goals when making their decisions
- Improved coordination between our member organizations
- Served as a gateway for information-sharing and contacts
- Provided free technical assistance to Delaware communities
- Fostered a peer network of resilience and sustainability professionals
- Expanded the reach of member outreach and communications



Over 1000 attendees!



10 Summits!

That is a Reason to Celebrate!



1. RASCL Community Advisory Team

This workgroup was formed to strengthen connections between communities and RASCL. It will serve as a trusted space for sharing concerns, needs, and programming ideas.

RASCL is pleased to welcome the following to the Community Advisory Team:

- **Bay Beach Association**
- **Bethany Beach Landowners Association**
- **Christiana Care**
- **City of Dover Public Works**
- **City of Wilmington Planning Office**
- **Rethinking Delaware**
- **Sussex County Preservation Coalition**
- **Town of South Bethany**

2. Information Guide on Forest Preservation

3. RASCL Coffee Hours - “In the Field”

2026 Summit Theme: Making Space for Sustainable Growth and Resilience: The Role of Land Use Planning



The Time is Now.

- No greater single tool at our disposal
- Many co-benefits
- To be most effective, must reduce exposure and vulnerability to hazards as well as car dependency
- Collaboration is key



Today's Agenda

Wifi: DTCCSpecialEvents
Password: mayflowers1

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 9:00 AM | Opening Remarks |
| 9:15 AM | 10th Anniversary Commemoration |
| 9:25 AM | Community Champion Award Presentation |
| 9:35 AM | Featured Speaker |
| 10:00 AM | Break |
| 10:10 AM | Land Use Planning for Sustainable Communities |
| 11:45 AM | Lunch |
| 12:50 PM | Featured Speaker |
| 1:30 PM | Land Use Planning for Resilience to Weather and Climate Hazards |
| 2:30 PM | Break |
| 2:40 PM | Local Success Stories |
| 3:50 PM | Closing Remarks |
| 4:00 PM | Happy Hour! |



Thank You to the Summit Planning Committee



Jana Savini, PDE
RASCL Coordinator

Olivia Allread
Tricia Arndt
Sara Bluhm
Tricia K. Arndt
Vanessa Cullen
Jordana Cutajar
Sarena Deglin
Cai Foster
John Harrod
Stephanie Johnson

Susan Love
Martha Maxwell-Doyle
Dorothy Morris
Martha Narvaez
Ashley Norton
Celeste Peart
Lynne Pusey
Danielle Swallow
Michael S. Tholstrup
Kelly Valencik

10th Anniversary



Silver

AECOM

Thank You
to Our
Sponsors!

Bronze



Green

Delaware Chapter of the American Planning Association

Envirotech Environmental Consulting Inc.

Environmental Finance Center - University of Maryland

GMB Architects/Engineers

LeafFilter Gutter Protection

The Nature Conservancy



And a Special
Thank You to
DeIDOT!

Please Welcome:

Nikko Brady

***Deputy Chief of Staff for
Climate, Food Systems & Planning
Office of the Governor***

RASCL Summit
**Community Champion
Awards Presentation**

Open Space Alliance

Featured Speaker

Mark Teschauer

Senior Policy Advisor

U.S. Climate Alliance

Session 1

Land Use Planning for Sustainable Communities

Featured Speaker

Katharine Burgess

Vice President of Programs and Operations

Smart Growth America

Session 2

Land Use Planning for Resilience to Weather and Climate Hazards

Session 3

Local Success Stories

Session 3

Closing Remarks

Quiz Time!

- 1 Land use practices that support climate adaptation and mitigation also tend to provide which of the following co-benefits?

 - A. More affordable and diverse housing
 - B. Preservation of natural and agricultural land
 - C. More vibrant, connected communities
 - D. All of the above**

- 2 The Delaware Resilient And Sustainable Communities League is celebrating 10 years as a network in 2026. What was RASCL originally called?

 - A. Delaware's Climate Change, Resiliency, and Sustainable Community Planning Partners**
 - B. Delaware Climate Resilience and Sustainable Communities Coordination Collaborative
 - C. Really Ambitious Sustainable Climate League (RASCL)

Quiz Time!

- 3** True or False:
Land Use planning decisions can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help communities withstand climate change-especially when they're made collaboratively.
- A. True**
B. False
- 4** Which of the following is not a RASCL program or resource?
- A. Coffee Hours
B. How to Write a Community Sustainability Plan
C. Free Tote Bags for Attending at Least Three Meetings
D. Community Based Research Needs

Quiz Time!

- 5** Land use planning isn't done in a vacuum-it depends on what key ingredient, which is why networks like RASCL matter so much?
- A. Advanced computer models
 - B. Cooperation and coordination across communities**
 - C. Private investment only
 - D. Trial and error zoning
- 6** How many member organizations did RASCL start out with?
- A. 3
 - B. 5
 - C. 12**
 - D. 20
- 7** How many RASCL member organizations are there today?
- A. 10
 - B. 15
 - C. 20
 - D. 28**

Bonus Question:

Bonus Question!

What is the “official post-meeting snack” of the RASCL Steering Committee?



Answer:

Corn Cakes from La Hacienda

Happy Hour
Please Join Us!