



Resilient and Sustainable Communities League

Developing a Community Sustainability Plan

RASCL IS A TRUE PARTNERSHIP

Good and bad, Delaware is small

RASCL has expanded through time

RASCL serves as a model for other states

Community Planning Assistance (CPA)

- DNREC Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy
- Delaware Coastal Programs
- DNREC Division of Watershed Stewardship
- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
- University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration
- Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination
- Delaware Emergency Management Agency
- The Nature Conservancy

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT:
Developing a Community Sustainability Plan



Established Goals:

1. Become a trusted resource and a point of contact for residents, communities, and professionals looking to RASCL for support and best practices
2. Provide technical assistance to communities and fellow practitioners on issues related to sustainability and resilience planning, including recommendations for comprehensive plans, mitigation strategies, and/or ordinances
3. Provide public-facing support for resilient and sustainable development
4. Connect and unite local communities that are experiencing similar impacts to hazards and climate change.

Where to start?

What planning assistance is needed?

Of course! Let's make a questionnaire for towns!

What is the difference between sustainability and resiliency?

We immediately observed stark differences in defining these terms, even among our group of specialists

We stumbled onto a call to action

Resiliency or resilience?

Reviewed resilience plans

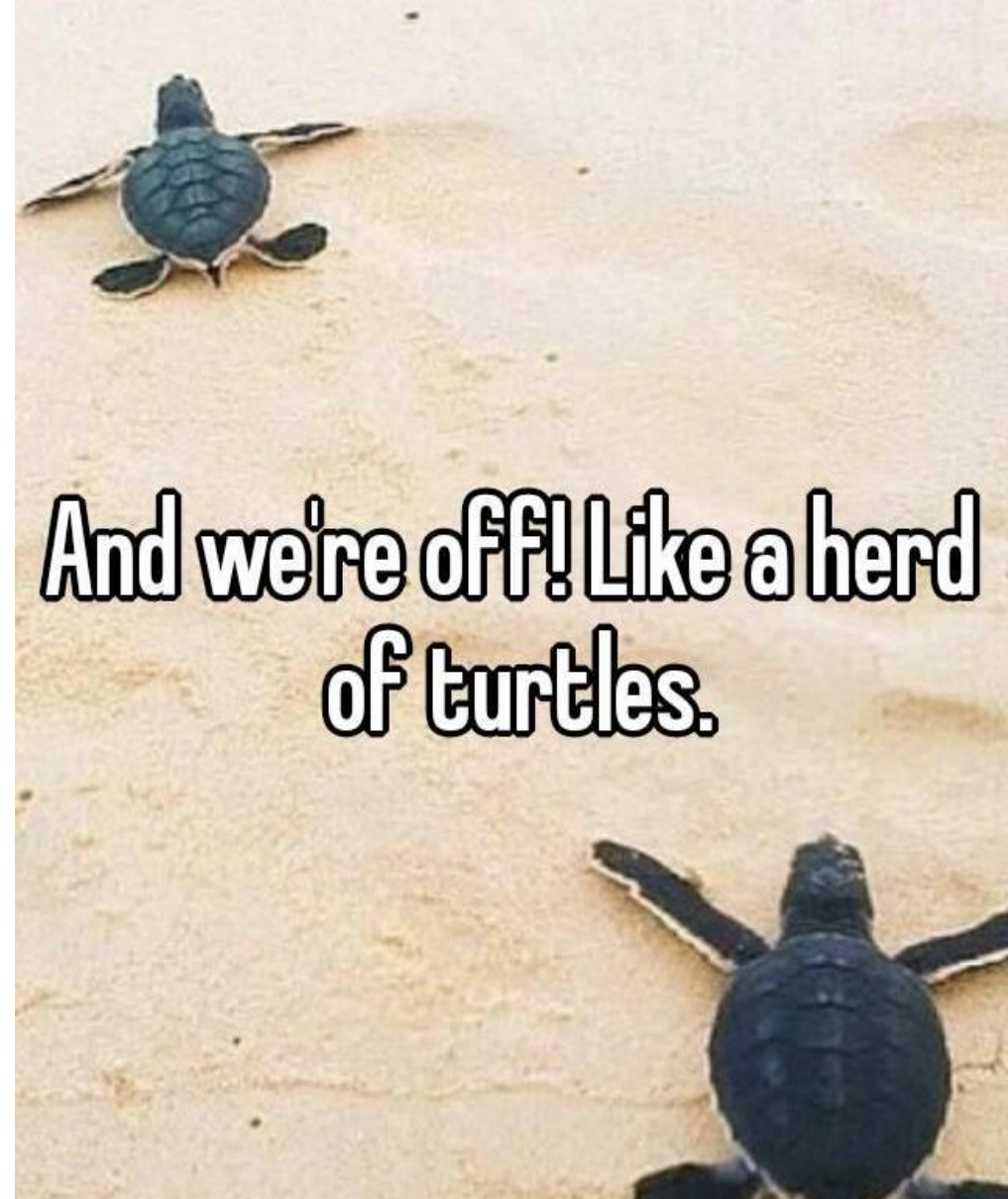
Reviewed sustainability plans

DISCUSSIONS

Discussions



**With that DEBATE
came an outline of
overlapping content
using five Sustainability
Plans in Delaware
(Appendix)**



Pilot Sustainability Grant Program (2017-2019)

- Newark - AECOM
- Wilmington - Arcadis
- Fenwick Island – Wallace Montgomery
- Frederica - Pennoni
- Milton – U of Md Environmental Finance Center

Finally...

- Defined difference between sustainability and resilience
- Designed a questionnaire for towns
- OSPC distributed questionnaire and through their annual reporting process
- Identified planning needs and towns that have expressed interest in acquiring assistance
- Wrote the guidance document
(Lead authors: Clare Quinlan and Lee Aiken)

What is the difference?

See page 2 – 3

“Sustainability is the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Having a sustainability plan in place can be key in identifying long- and short-term goals for responding to future climate change from a sustainability standpoint.

“Resilience is the ability to recover from or adjust easily to change. It prioritizes responding to the pressures and threats we are faced with now and into the future and preparing to lessen the frequency and duration of disruptions from those threats. A good sustainability plan includes elements of resilience.

Why do communities need a sustainability plan?

Sustainability is not solely about climate change...

Institute for Sustainable Communities:

“Throughout the world, people want the same things: access to clean air and water; economic opportunities; a safe and healthy place to raise their kids; shelter; lifelong learning; a sense of community; and the ability to have a say in the decisions that affect their lives.”



WHO WE ARE

RASCL is a collaborative network of state, nonprofit, and academic partners working to create a more resilient, sustainable Delaware.



WHAT WE DO

RASCL partners work together to accelerate the capacity of local governments to take steps to become more sustainable and resilient.



OUR RESOURCES

Programs, resources, and information to support resilient and sustainable communities.



GET INVOLVED

Learn more about becoming a RASCL member organization and how to apply.



Funding to support this website and administration of RASCL is provided by Federal funds under award NA18NOS4190144 from the Delaware Coastal Programs and the Office for Coastal Management (OCM), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the OCM NOAA or the U.S. Department of Commerce

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Community Resources Tab



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What next for CPA?

- Prioritize community needs and requests
- Identify priority communities
- Use this guidance document to assist with future planning initiatives
- Future grant program for sustainability planning and technical assistance?
- Future workshop on helping communities to identify priorities?



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