

2022 RNPN Kickoff Recap

Held on Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022 from 1-2 p.m. ET, the kickoff provided opportunities to solve our most pressing challenges together and create a more resilient nation for all communities. This recap includes discussion summaries, resources and upcoming events based on the below topics:

- Specific resilience challenges Resilient Nation Partnership Network (RNPN) partners could help solve in 2022
- Upcoming opportunities to collaborate with RNPN partners
- Ways RNPN partners can help advance organizational priorities in 2022
- Upcoming events, meetings and conferences

Discussion Points

- A representative of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ([NOAA](#)) discussed resilience challenges. Since 1980, we have had more than 300 weather and climate disasters that have exceeded \$1 billion in damages and costs, totaling more than \$2 trillion. RNPN members were asked what NOAA can do to support community decision-making efforts. They emphasized sharing information, such as [NOAA's Coastal County Snapshot tool](#), with vulnerable populations.
- A representative with the municipality of Anchorage said the city recently kicked off its comprehensive plan. They are curious about what others are doing and would like to know how to work with businesses and community members who were not previously engaged on how to bring resilience projects into the planning process.
- A representative of [ARISE](#), shared that they are in the process of putting together an action guide for a resilience scorecard for cities. It is used by 350 cities around the world, including some in the U.S. They are interested in hearing from people who would like to participate, especially in the financial sector. They also have a free tool for cities and island nations about critical assets and likely failures, and a pilot user in Dominika. They are looking for other pilot sites.
- A representative with [Resilient Virginia](#) said they have a statewide goal of accelerating resilience planning around the state, especially in the central and western parts. Inland groups can learn from coastal areas for resilience planning.
- A representative of the [Advanced Warning and Response Network \(AWARN\) Alliance](#), is building a voluntary Next Generation Emergency Messaging System. They need help creating messages that will lead to behavior change. In disasters people don't usually panic, but they delay acting. They look for



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confirmation and information. That delay can be fatal. They want to structure messages for smart phones and TVs in the right way.

- A representative of FEMA observed that there were 230 participants on the call and would appreciate working groups on specific topics.
- A consultant in Washington, D.C. noted that people investing in resilience and adaptation projects have a hard time proving the value. Climate is highly uncertain so the benefits are uncertain. Their company has an innovative financial tool to prove the value of climate change, resilience and adaptation projects. They will work with partners who want to pilot it to prove value and secure project financing.
- A representative of the [Transportation Research Board](#) talked about how many equitable solutions are discussed in the planning process. However, after disasters, they are not applied when trying to build resilience. They would like to start a conversation on that subject.
- A participant said we need to figure out how to engage with allies. They mentioned National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Images, the American Red Cross and the National Emergency Managers Association. The International Economic Development Council has meetings to talk about economic resilience. The U.S. Chamber has an event with FEMA on public-private partnerships in July. They talked about linking metro and state resilience networks into a national network.

RNPN Overview and Upcoming Releases/Events

The [RNPN](#) consists of over 1,500 organizations from diverse sectors and industries including academia, the private sector, nonprofits and government agencies, united to create a more resilient nation. Our priorities are:

1. Promoting natural hazard mitigation and climate adaptation actions.
 2. Advancing equitable resilience initiatives.
 3. Expanding capacity through partnerships.
- [March Resilience Exchange](#) (March 30, 2022)
 - *“Building Alliances for Climate Action”* resource – Projected release spring 2022.

Upcoming Events

[Accelerating Solutions for a Resilient Coast](#)

(March 22–23, 2022)

Coastal Quest (Building Resilient Communities)

[American Climate Leadership Summit \(ACLS\)](#)

(March 28–31, 2022)

ACLS

[Association of State Floodplain Managers](#)

[2022 Annual Conference](#) (May 15–19, 2022)

Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM)

[Aspen Ideas: Climate](#) (May 9–12, 2022)
City of Miami Beach, Florida

[Changing Climates: Equity and Adaptation in a Warming World](#) (July 10–13, 2022)
Natural Hazards Center

[EESI Briefings and Events](#) (Ongoing)
Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)

[FEMA Region 6 Floodplain Management Events](#)
FEMA Region 6

[Georgetown Climate Center's State Policy Forum](#) (Bi-monthly)
Georgetown Climate Center

Resources

[Adaptation Clearinghouse](#); Georgetown Climate Center

[Arizona Partners in Preparedness: Navigating the Pandemic Webinar Series](#); Arizona Partners in Preparedness

[Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters](#); NOAA

[Climate Ready America](#); Geos Institute

[National Adaptation Forum](#) (October 25–27, 2022)
EcoAdapt

[National Conference on Earthquake Engineering & 2022 EERI Annual Meeting](#) (June 27–July 1, 2022)
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute

[National Disaster Resilience Conference](#) (November 7–10, 2022)
Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH)

[River Rally](#) (June 4–7, 2022)
River Network

Leslie Chapman-Henderson of the [FLASH](#) mentioned the [National Disaster Resilience Conference](#) call for presentations. It's a smaller conference with a focus on innovation.

[Webinars and Events](#)
Center for Disaster Philanthropy

[Convening and Peer Learning](#); Georgetown Climate Center

[Corporate Citizenship Center](#); U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

[Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities](#); UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

[Disaster Behavioral Health Resources](#); Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

[Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Industrial and Commercial Buildings – For Use by Building Owners, Operators and Managers](#); UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

[Equity Summit Discussion Guides](#); Smart Growth America

[Inclusive Insurance: Promoting Post-Flood Financial Resiliency of Low and Moderate Income Households](#); Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center

[Investing in Transportation Resilience: A Framework for Informed Choices](#); Transportation Research Board

[Just Energy: Reducing Pollution, Creating Jobs Toolkit](#); NAACP

[Killer Heat in the United States: The Future of Dangerously Hot Days](#); Union of Concerned Scientists

[Oregon Coastal Hazards Ready Library and Mapper](#); Sea Grant Oregon

[Public Health System Resilience Scorecard](#); UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

[Ready-to-Fund Resilience Guidebook and Training](#); American Society of Adaptation Professionals

[Resilience Roadmap: A Collaborative Approach to Multi-Jurisdictional Planning](#); National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

[SLOPE: State and Local Planning for Energy](#); NREL

[Smart Growth Resource Library](#); Metropolitan Area Planning Council (Boston)

“Virginia Can’t Wait!” Campaign; ResilientVA Connect and join the campaign. Contact Anette Osso.

- Organizing/summarizing funding opportunities, and best practices with equitable community outreach. (County of Sonoma)

Nature-Based Solutions

- The Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance is developing an action plan to protect and restore functional floodplains and building a community of practice to support implementation of the plan. (Eileen Shader, American Rivers)
- Integrating protection and restoration of natural floodplains, rivers, and wetlands into FEMA's programs, especially the NFIP and mitigation, and overcoming institutional barriers to the use of nature-based approaches.
- Advancing equitable, nature-based solutions.
- Understanding effectiveness of nature-based solutions
- City of Miami Beach faces challenges in the implementation of green infrastructure. How do we communicate and express the need for green infrastructure and the multi-tiered benefits it provides both in short and long term? And how do we incentivize its construction in the private realm. Our other large challenge is getting our complex neighborhood adaptation projects in the ground. These projects are large in scope and can be disruptive. This can lead to some resistance and construction fatigue from the community.
- How to design urban stream restoration to optimize resiliency. A representative of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS D).
- Guidance and possible financial resources as the Episcopal Church across the Midwest works with private landowners to increase grassland preservation and restoration, transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy on their land, and pursuing more sustainable agriculture and livestock production. How might our churches and creation care sites serve as centers for resilience and education?

Education and Training

- Our program Resilient Schools Consortium (RiSC) educates middle- and high-school students in New York City and New Jersey about climate science, current and future climate impacts, and resilience strategies that communities can implement locally. It also connects students to community members to build inter-generational social resilience. We would like to expand our reach and capacity and are challenged with fundraising. We would like to be able to reach more students and coastal communities. Education of our youth is critical for building resilient communities, and to give students the skills they need for emerging sectors.
- University of Florida, Historic Preservation Program. We are working a lot with small communities and trying to create realistic plans for them especially when commissions may be all-volunteer or have very limited knowledge/capability.
- My work at EESI is focused on planning Congressional briefings and we have a number of adaptation and resilience briefings this year. Some specific topics we will cover are sea level rise, wildfires, and extreme cold.
- Partners attending or speaking at the Arizona Partners in Preparedness Webinar Series, which brings together local community members along with emergency management to work on innovative approaches to inclusive disaster readiness. <https://pipwebinars.com/>
- The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) and the authors of the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) invite your input on the development and focus of chapter content for the NCA5. The Coastal Effects Chapter is hosting a public engagement workshop that will take place on January 26, 2022, from noon-4 p.m. ET. For opportunities to participate, please visit www.globalchange.gov/nca5. View the NCA5 Engagement Workshop tab on the left-hand menu to view dates and registration information for the other 31 chapters of the NCA5, such as Oceans and Marine Resources, Adaptation, or the chapters focused on specific geographic regions.

- We are looking for social and behavioral scientists to help us design the UX for advanced emergency messages.

Tools

- This spring ASFPM is releasing a tool to help people in floodprone areas understand what flood mitigation actions they can take today to protect their homes, businesses, neighborhoods, etc. from flooding in the future. While the primary target audience is the property owner (or buyer), the website will provide secondary audiences with a basic understanding of their relation to flood mitigation, connecting them to external resources related to addressing flood risk that have been developed specifically for them when possible. The initial list of secondary audiences includes renters, business owners, real estate professionals, community associations, school and cultural facility representatives and all levels of government officials. If you have resources for any of these audiences, especially our secondary audiences, we would love to connect to make those links.
- University of Florida, Historic Preservation Program. We would like to offer a broad range of opportunities for our students to engage in resilience from interdisciplinary perspectives. We also hope to create student toolkits this year for our emerging professionals to take with them into their respective positions.
- Sharing free resources for resilience outreach and education like our new www.BuyersGuideToResilientHomes.org tool for homeowners, renters, and buyers and www.Inspect2Protect.org building code lookup tool. I will send a complete list of assets and videos to the RNPN team. Thanks!
- Smart Growth America is looking for ways to partner with folks/learning about resources and tools to advance smart growth as a tool to curb emissions in the short-and long-term to avoid the worst effects of climate change
- We have published a Resilience Playbook for university - community joint partnerships, and are planning in 2022 to make it a "living" digital resource that can accept "plays"/case studies as examples to expand this resource. (Jointly published by Arizona State University and Global Council for Science and the Environment).
- Geos Institute is developing a nationwide infrastructure for state-specific climate resilience services called Climate Ready America. We are looking for five states to pilot Climate Innovation Centers in 2022 as part of that infrastructure. Please check out our website: <http://geosinstitute.org> to register interest for your state to be a pilot. We will also put a notice in the February RNPN newsletter about this pilot program.
- We need social/behavioral science to guide the development of new UXs for advanced alerting and post-disaster recovery messaging. We need to know how to use geo-targeting and rich media to improve equitable access and reduce "milling," i.e., delay in taking protective action. (AWARN Alliance)
- US Resiliency Council usrc.org is in the final stages of developing a building performance rating system for straight line WIND risks. We are looking for partners to help us broaden out and involve stakeholders and users in crafting its final usability and launching stage.
- Climate change and climate related events create strong emotions which are difficult to deal with. Many folks are discouraged that more isn't being done to address these concerns and devastating impacts. The Resilient Activist had developed programs to help people affected by eco-anxiety. We would love to connect with individuals and organizations interested in connecting with us on these issues. <https://www.theresilientactivist.org/>.

Community Resilience

- Assistance with and resources for supporting and collaborating with community/grassroots groups to grow collaboration and shared decision-making to build community resilience Quantifying long term health and ecosystem service benefits of climate resilient actions plus green and grey

infrastructure education and training for emergency management professionals on climate change, its full spectrum of impacts, and proactive adaptation strategies (both infrastructure and socially focused strategies).

- Helping building capacity to implement resilience at the local/community level building alliances with organizations that can provide great connections to underserved and under-represented communities initiating conversations about strategic relocation (retreating from disaster-prone areas) aligning federal investments to make significant advancements in resilience at the community level.
- I am responsible for building resilience partnerships in the Midwest for Jacobs, for new and innovative projects in particular. I would love to connect with medium-sized businesses with local expertise, to supplement our internal capabilities. Reach out!
- Meet new partners to support ongoing growth of the regional collaborative solutions for climate and resilience and stronger connections to other teams developing climate corps programs.
- Would love to connect with anyone working on resilient housing in the US or thinking about resilient housing for the first time.
- Building capacity and gathering best practices and examples for communities to follow, and support for expanding/enhancing collaborations. (Blackstone Watershed Collaborative)
- Would love to hear about other watershed-based climate collaboratives! Connecting on the nitty gritty of how you're funded, if you have a board of directors or other leadership/management group/how decisions are made, etc. Also learning who else works across state lines and how to work with multiple states/many communities. Specifically, I'm in New England (RI/MA), but would love to learn other examples! (Blackstone Watershed Collaborative)
- Collaborating and partnering to build new regional resilience collaboratives across the US and supporting the development of new climate corps programs - we are building/supporting both and see these as a huge opportunity to build capacity to do this critical work.
- Learn more best practices on how cities can develop more sustainably and resiliently! (San Antonio River Authority)
- We'd love to connect with other groups who are concerned with "green gentrification and displacement" and finding ways to increase climate resilience while protecting and increasing affordable housing and economic development (River Network and Urban Waters Learning Network)

Ways RNPN partners can help advance organizational priorities in 2022

- We are looking for additional support to integrate beyond code construction such as FORTIFIED Home and Commercial standards as communities rebuild and mitigate (sunny day) (Smart Home America)
- Best practices/lessons learned forum, and perhaps a database of opportunities for paid internships for resilience-focused students to have applied learning opportunities (University of Florida, Historic Preservation Program)
- Learning how to direct America Rescue Plan Act/other funds to our region to focus on climate resilience! Also, sharing information between groups - speaking at one another's meetings and sharing presentations, for instance. Growing our networks and enhancing how we can collaborate.(Blackstone Watershed Collaborative)
- Maximizing impact through efficient network deployment of information and opportunities.
- Our top priorities are to develop financial incentives for investing in mitigation. (US Resiliency Council)
- Would love to form more partnerships for resilience consulting work – better able to provide answers, solutions, and help for those with challenges and questions about the way forward. (Climate Resilience Consulting)
- Support as we update our Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan – Anchorage.
- Making sure land use perspectives are included in policies moving forward (Smart Growth America)

- NOAA is participating in the NACo Winter Leg Conference and will be at the federal roundtable on Feb. 14. Stop by: the NWS will be there at the table. In addition, the NOAA Administrator will be speaking during the EELU Committee meeting on Feb. 12 and will be interested in feedback. A representative who leads our Coastal Resilience will be on a panel at the NACo-Pew Disaster Resilience Intergov event on Feb. 11. He would also like to hear how we can support coastal resilience.
- A participant mentioned DRI, the largest organization for professionals in continuity of operations. They also mentioned the American Society of Adaptation Professionals, of which he is a member.
- A participant said they would like to learn more about how cities can develop more sustainably and resiliently.

Areas of Interest for Learning More

- A unified definition of “resilience” across agencies would be very useful. At the very least, less resilience and more openness will build capacities at scale.
- Creating topical work groups, sharing resources all our partners have worked on especially research and case studies.
- What are community needs and questions regarding energy as they do resilience planning and implementation? How can NREL help stakeholders explore and implement renewable energy and storage solutions for resilience?
- Current efforts of mitigation for Colorado wildfires.
- Incorporate some strategies in the 2022 development plan.
- Wildfire mitigation.
- Debris/mudflows - both pre and post wildfires.
- Incorporate heat as hazard more explicitly in local preparedness plans.
- Supporting hard-to-reach communities.
- Partnership building across the great lakes.
- Co-create resources.
- Would like to partner with NASA.
- Would like to connect with any RNPN partners in Virginia!
- Interagency service delivery at regional scales-- partner with federal groups on the ground.
- Partners in our region - FEMA.
- Capacity building.
- We need to work more closely together on engagements on federal to state scales.
- Work on educating and training to reduce risk to weather events.
- Learn about available funding for regional resiliency/nature-based solutions projects.
- Strengthening disaster- and climate-resilient housing with federal, state and local government partners.
- Curating sources of information, tools, training, grants, and other resources for the FEMA Region 2 stakeholders. Evaluate for alignment with national and state resilience priorities.
- The pandemic has made much of the private sector realize they lack Business Continuity Programs (BCPs). There are numerous BCP positions open with no qualified candidates. How can we get employers to focus on the overarching knowledge, skills and abilities that an emergency manager, program manager, et al may work just as well if not better than someone who previously held the BCP title?
- How to measure and quantify compounding environmental impacts for the purpose of incorporating resiliency into federal consistency reviews and Brownfield redevelopment.
- How can we work with NASA to better prepare for the increase in flooding due to the next moon wobble in the 2030s? - FEMA Federal Flood Insurance
- Advancing adoption and enforcement of current model building codes and beyond-code practices to reduce death, injuries, and property damage from disasters.
- Continued sharing of best practices and highlights from across the country and agencies. How FEMA is implementing Justice40.

- We could really use help in understanding which actions we take actually lead to behavior change -in the near term or long term. How do we measure behavior change and trace it back to our actions?
- We need federal standards for resilience officers/employees/programs. There are standards for every industry. Need that for the resilience world too.
- Finding out what everyone is doing - networking - helping us to scale up our impact
- We are developing online weather safety training and are interested in partners to make it more equitable. We want to make this accessible to everyone.
- We would love to feel more connected to other groups in our region (Region 2), and in the Northeast, focused on climate resilience, especially any groups focused on working with youth so we can find points of connection and collaboration.
- Accessing grants - both government and philanthropic, to advance our resilience initiatives.
- Communication difficulties due to lack of internet and cell coverage. storm water drainage compromising housing, and equitable access to healthcare for rural communities, especially communities in poverty/lacking transportation access
- Access to FEMA decision makers to promote and discuss innovative disaster response approaches.
- Getting more local transportation agencies to partner with community entities on project and infrastructure resilience.
- Finding an effective way to communicate how preventative measures are the best ways to reduce costs versus being reactive.
- Connecting with and supporting local community long-term recovery groups, as many of these people have not done work in recovery/resilience before, and often are low on capacity to do things like grant writing and grant administration.
- Would like to connect with partners interested in and working in the energy space (especially with interest in renewable energy technology and storage deployment for resiliency).
- FEMA is working on a climate exercise series at the state, local, tribal, territorial, regional and national levels to increase climate literacy and support climate change planning.
- We want to connect with any organization interested in advancing access and inclusion in emergency management, especially folks who want to develop better plans with the leadership and experience of people with disabilities.
- Accelerating integration of community voices into infrastructure projects.
- Working on two items transportation resilience for national defense, and frameworks for transportation agencies to enhance community and regional resilience.
- How states can organize resilience efforts between state agencies.
- The RNPN needs a LinkedIn group to collaborate.
- It looks like everything that this network is doing is parallel with the work we are doing at Resilient Virginia.