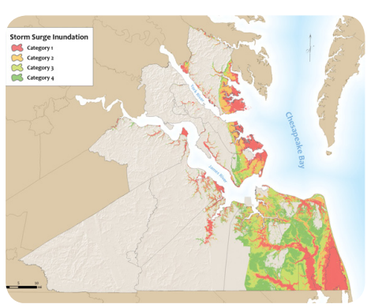
CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING

It is now unequivocally clear that climate change is underway and that the consequences will likely result in several significant adverse impacts on the Hampton Roads region. Mitigation and adaptation to climate change are both essential parts of the emerging strategy required to cope with and manage this pervasive and global threat. HRPDC staff is currently investigating the impacts of climate change and sea level rise through a three-year Focal Area Grant from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

Over the past year staff has:

- Assessed the Economic Impacts of Climate Changed in Hampton Roads.
- Worked towards the development of a tool set that would assess the impact of Sea Level Rise.
- Developed a set of policy recommendations to protect the built and natural environment in Hampton Roads.

HRPDC will continue its ongoing involvement with the Virginia Coastal Policy Team and the Climate Change Focal Area Grant. Additionally, HRPDC will continue regional climate change research and coordination as well as research into planning policies to help localities improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.



REGIONAL SOLID WASTE PLANNING

HRPDC currently serves as South Hampton Roads' designated regional solid waste planning agency. Over the past year staff has:

- Updated the region's Solid Waste Plan.
- Completed the annual recycling rate reports for the localities in the SPSA service area.

HRPDC will continue providing a framework for coordinating solid waste and recycling programs in the region.

PUBLIC INFORMATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

With a new look and new staff configuration, the Public Information and Community Affairs staff is poised to tell the many great stories of regional cooperation and problem solving. The goal is to more fully explore where and how residents want to receive information and to provide current and relevant updates on the varied projects of the HRPDC. Weekly Updates, as well as the website, new blog, and presence on Facebook offer a variety of options for Hampton Roads citizens to stay up-to-date on issues of regional importance.

Environmental education is also a key component of this department. With four topical environmental education committees, there is always relevant information to share. To streamline this effort and make it more user-friendly, the committees are transitioning to an umbrella campaign known as HR Green: the region's one-stop-shop for news and information about all the terrific environment-friendly programs underway in Hampton Roads. Check out their new blog at **www.HRGreenBlog.com** and sign up to get the latest postings.

HAMPTON ROADS PDC
PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

The Regional Building
723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23320

757.420.8300
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HAMPTON ROADS PDC
PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

HRPDC AT A GLANCE

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SURRY
VIRGINIA BEACH
WILLIAMSBURG
YORK

PLANNING WATER RESOURCES COMMUNICATIONS ECONOMICS & HOUSING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

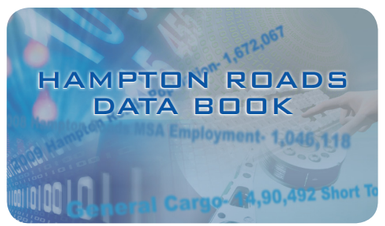
WATER RESOURCES

The Water Resources Department supports local stormwater, drinking water, and wastewater programs. In the past year, the HRPDC staff has focused on policy analysis to respond to existing and proposed regulatory requirements:

- Provided legal and technical comments on the draft Bay TMDL and Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan.
- Developed cost estimates to retrofit existing properties with new stormwater management features based on requirements in the EPA's Chesapeake Bay TMDL.
- Represented the region on the State's technical advisory committees for the Bay TMDL, stormwater, water supply planning, and pesticide regulations.
- Drafted the Regional Water Supply Plan.
- Analyzed the sustainable yield of regional groundwater resources.
- Supported compliance with the Consent Order for Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO).

The next steps for the Water Resources programs include:

- Coordinating the development of the Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan for the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.
- Evaluating the long-term availability of groundwater and analyzing the impacts of the groundwater permit still held by the International Paper Mill in Franklin.
- Conducting a regional study to assess water system infrastructure vulnerabilities and plan for resiliency and continuity of service in the event of a terrorist attack or natural disaster.
- Facilitating the development of the Rehabilitation Plans and Regional Wet Weather Plan to find technical and policy solutions to meet DEQ's and EPA's requirements for the SSO Consent Order.



ECONOMICS

What is the projected employment in Hampton Roads in 2040? How has the great recession impacted employment within the region? What are the expected regional impacts of the Ford plant closure? the Franklin mill closure? the Canon expansion? the disestablishment of JFCOM?

The Hampton Roads economy is a dynamic organism, constantly changing and constantly being challenged. HRPDC economics staff works to provide information, answers, and analysis to better understand the issues that impact the region.

PUBLICATIONS

- Benchmarking Study
- Annual Data Book
- The Hampton Roads Economic Quarterly
- Special briefs are issued for major announcements such as the Franklin Mill closure and JFCOM

Economics staff support and assist staff from each of the localities providing data and analysis for grant applications, assessing and reviewing documents and contributing to boards and committees as requested.

Staff also supports the efforts and initiatives of other regional organizations, including:

- HRTPO
- The Hampton Roads Partnership
- HREDA
- HRMFFA
- LEAD Hampton Roads
- Historic Triangle Collaborative

For over 30 years, the Hampton Roads economics staff has strived to provide quality information and analysis for the benefit of the Hampton Roads region.

MOVING FORWARD

Staff is beginning work on an analysis of energy development strategies in Hampton Roads. While there have been numerous proposals to explore and expand sources of energy within the region, there has not been a comprehensive analysis of the potential economic impacts. Staff is working to provide such an analysis to assist the region's decision makers in developing strategies to grow the regional economy.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The HRPDC emergency management staff will continue to support the Regional Emergency Management Technical Advisory Committee (REMTAC). The staff provides strategic support in developing a multi-year plan to guide emergency management planning activities and projects of regional importance to all jurisdictions linked to the HRPDC to enhance the mission, vision, and goals of this technical advisory committee and regional efforts. Several of these on-going notable efforts include:

- Medical Special Needs Population Identification and Planning
- Hurricane Evacuation and Preparedness
- Regional and Local Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Mass Care and Sheltering Planning (i.e. Special Needs, Pets, etc.)
- Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)
- Healthcare Organization Emergency Preparedness Seminars (HOEPS)
- Regional Debris Management
- Regional Inmate Evacuation Planning

HOMELAND SECURITY

The HRPDC emergency management staff will continue to support the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant (a component of the Homeland Security Grant Program). The HRPDC staff provides program management and liaison support with the local jurisdictions, VDEM, the Governor's Office of Commonwealth Preparedness, and other stakeholders in developing, submitting, and implementing approved proposals (known as investment justifications {IJ}) for this initiative with the support of the Hampton Roads Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) which is the authoritative body for the UASI. The staff also supports homeland security initiatives on behalf of, and at the request of, the Governor's Office of Commonwealth Preparedness through the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES

HRPDC staff is involved in a host of efforts throughout Hampton Roads in the housing and human services arena. Staff serve on the boards of:

- Disabilities Services
- Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
- Hampton Roads Housing Consortium
- Virginia Association of Housing Counselors
- Regional Taskforce on Ending Homelessness

Since 1996, the HRPDC staff has administered the Hampton Roads Loan Fund Partnership in an effort to provide affordable housing opportunities throughout the region.

Staff has begun preliminary steps in developing a Regional Housing Service Portal to provide a "one-stop" shop environment for obtaining and accessing reliable and legitimate services for housing such as pre-purchase and homeownership education, counseling for foreclosure prevention, and programs available to the homeless.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

Green infrastructure planning provides a diversity of public and private functions and values that address both natural and human needs and benefit the environment and communities. This type of planning helps protect and restore naturally functioning ecosystems and provides a framework for future development. During the past year HRPDC staff has:

- Facilitated Regional efforts to identify the components of a green infrastructure system for Hampton Roads.
- Facilitated cooperative efforts to identify funding opportunities to support a regional green infrastructure system.

HRPDC will continue working to develop a useful planning tool for local and regional planners. The goal is to identify and prioritize a network of valuable conservation lands in order to achieve multiple benefits, such as habitat protection, drinking water supply protection, stormwater management and recreational opportunities.