



## GREEN STREETS | GREEN JOBS | GREEN TOWNS INITIATIVE

The Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Partnership (G3) aims to stimulate the green jobs market and enable families to work where they live and play. Small to mid-sized communities can boost their local economies and protect water resources through the use of watershed planning, design and construction of stormwater best management practices.



### The Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic (VCPC) at the College of William & Mary Law School

An official calling to Virginia's coastal communities to *Go Green, Save Money: Lowering Flood Insurance Rates with Green Infrastructure.*

Virginia localities in the Tidewater region face a growing threat from sea level rise and recurrent flooding. The Virginia coastal zone is expected to experience at least 1.5 feet of sea level rise by 2050, on top of the more than one foot rise already experienced over the past 80 years. As a result, flooding is becoming a more frequent issue in this coastal region.

improvements, can simultaneously better protect their citizens from flooding risks, improve environmental protection, create more sustainable communities, and generate flood insurance discounts for policyholders.

One of the primary goals for this project is to create work product that partners can use as they work with localities to update their flooding maps and improve local adaptive management. It is being designed for application to all of Virginia's coastal zone localities, which includes 43 counties, cities and independent towns.

Local government officials are continually searching for ways to address both this water quantity issue and the water quality requirements set by federal and state law, also in response to citizen demand for control of flooding and water quality.

The purpose of this project is for the Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic at the College of William & Mary Law School to develop a white paper, *Go Green, Save Money: Lowering Flood Insurance Rates with Green Infrastructure*, which will explain how localities, by participating more fully in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) program and generating credits for open space and stormwater



Project Partners: Center for Coastal Resources Management; Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association; Department of Conservation & Recreation; Hampton Roads Planning District Commission; Chesapeake Bay Trust; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**G3 Grant Award Amount:**  
\$25,000

**In-Kind Match Amount:**  
\$15,000

**Status:**  
In Progress



# COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS) ELEMENTS

## CRS provides credits in these areas:

- Open Space Preservation
- Higher Regulatory Standards
- Drainage System Maintenance
- Setbacks
- Erosion Regulations
- Stormwater Management

## Go Green, Save Money seeks to educate local government officials and policy makers about:

- How to use the above measures to improve their CRS ratings
- What actions count for CRS credit
- Whether actions taken to meet regulatory requirements like the Bay TMDL also count towards CRS credits
- Whether private actions count for CRS credit
- How improving stormwater management and creating open space help serve flood protection goals
- How improving stormwater management and increasing open space saves the community money by reducing flood insurance rates for policyholders

## SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH: ADDITIONAL GREEN ACTIVITIES

The Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic has achieved a lot in the short time since its creation by the College of William & Mary in 2012:

**Conferences, Seminars and Gatherings:** VCPC serves as a center for dialogue and deliberation on Virginia’s attempt to respond to the inevitable impacts of climate change and sea level rise. VCPC hosts an annual conference in the fall and co-hosts an annual conference in the winter/spring with William & Mary Law School’s Environmental Law and Policy Review Journal.

**Other White Papers:** The number of VCPC papers continues to grow as the clinic continues to provide integrated policy analysis and legal advice. Among the published papers to date are those focusing on topics such as the use of zoning tools to respond to sea level rise, takings debates surrounding recurrent flooding, and the implementation of Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

**Community Outreach:** Outreach efforts have included interviews and op-eds in Hampton Roads media outlets and partnering efforts with organizations like Old Dominion University and the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission on issues regarding flood insurance and Chesapeake Bay restoration.

(from law.wm.edu)

This page: Virginia flood photos



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