

Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee

March 10, 2026



Agenda

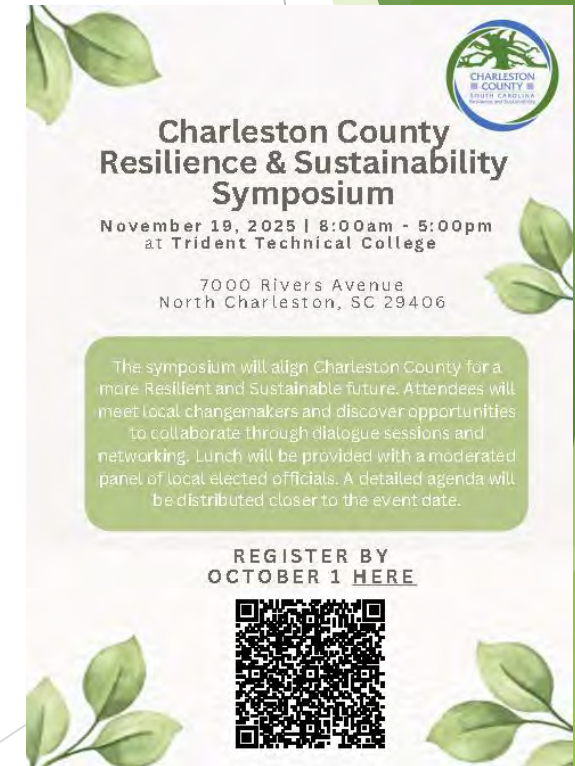
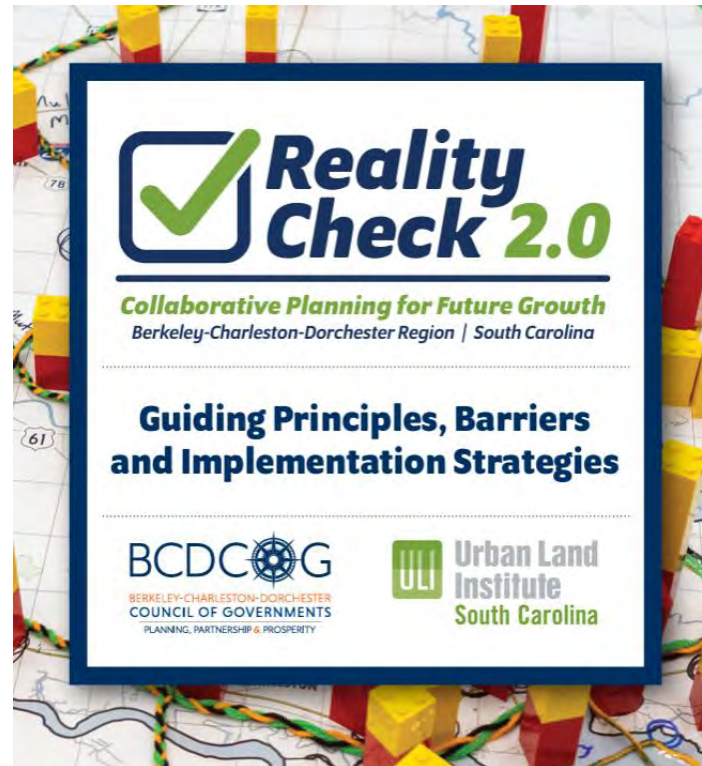
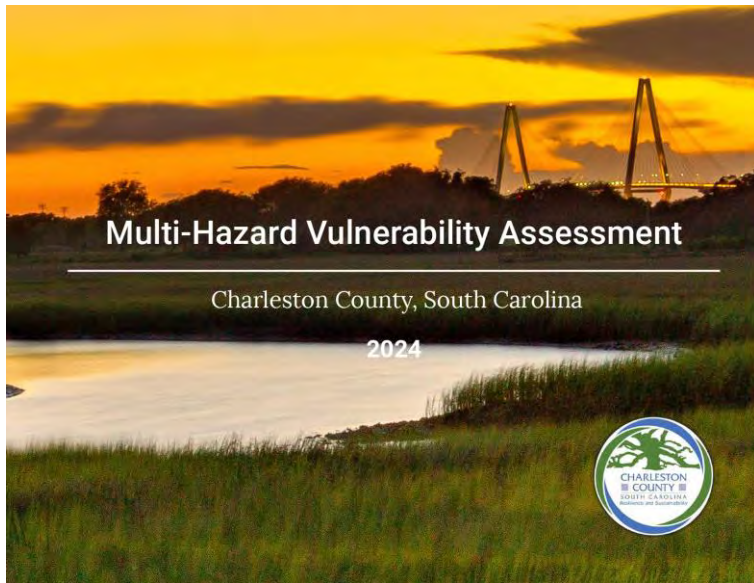
- ▶ Membership - Resilience & Sustainability Advisory Committee
- ▶ Resilience Remarks:
 - ▶ Charleston Resilience Collaborative
 - ▶ Trident VOAD
- ▶ Sustainability Remarks:
 - ▶ 2025 Sustainability Report
 - ▶ Project Updates
- ▶ ReLeaf Project (Mika Gadsden, Director of Sustainability, City of Charleston)
- ▶ Outreach events
- ▶ Adjourn

Advisory Committee Membership

Name	Membership		Term Start	Term Expiration
Stewart Weinberg	Chair	Sustainability Expert	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-26
Scott Harris	Vice Chair	Higher Ed	31-Jan-24	30-Dec-27
Sally Brooks	Voting Member	County Staff Expert	31-Dec-24	30-Dec-27
Adrian Cain	Voting Member	Homebuilders Association	27-Jun-23	31-Dec-26
Jacob Gamble	Voting Member	Chamber of Commerce	11-Feb-26	30-Dec-29
Scott Curtis	Voting Member	Resilience Expert	31-Dec-24	31-Dec-27
Kylon Middleton	Voting Member	County Council	1-Jan-26	1-Jan-27
Kristin Miguez	Voting Member	BCDCOG	31-Dec-25	30-Dec-28
Scott Runyon	Voting Member	Energy Expert	23-May-23	31-Dec-25

Steps taken to get here...

- ▶ HVA identifies current and future hazard vulnerability (October 2024)
- ▶ Reality Check 2.0 hosted by BCDCOG + ULI (April 2025)
- ▶ Built regional consensus for a collaborative path forward and created momentum for Resilience & Sustainability Symposium.



Symposium

November 2025

- ▶ Over **180 attendees**
- ▶ Over **60 organizations participated** from over 20 local, regional, state, federal governments, and over 30 nongovernmental organizations.
- ▶ **Key leadership** attended
- ▶ **Local Government Practitioners** work session



Barriers Identified at the Symposium



Poor Coordination Across Jurisdictions and Agencies



Development Pressures Outpacing Planning and Infrastructure Capacity



Outdated and Inflexible Regulatory Standards



“Not Enough Money to Go Around”



Community Engagement Fatigue and Loss of Trust



Slow and Complex Federal Grant Processes



Long Permitting Timelines and Regulatory Bottlenecks



Lack of Political Will and Leadership Support



Data Gaps

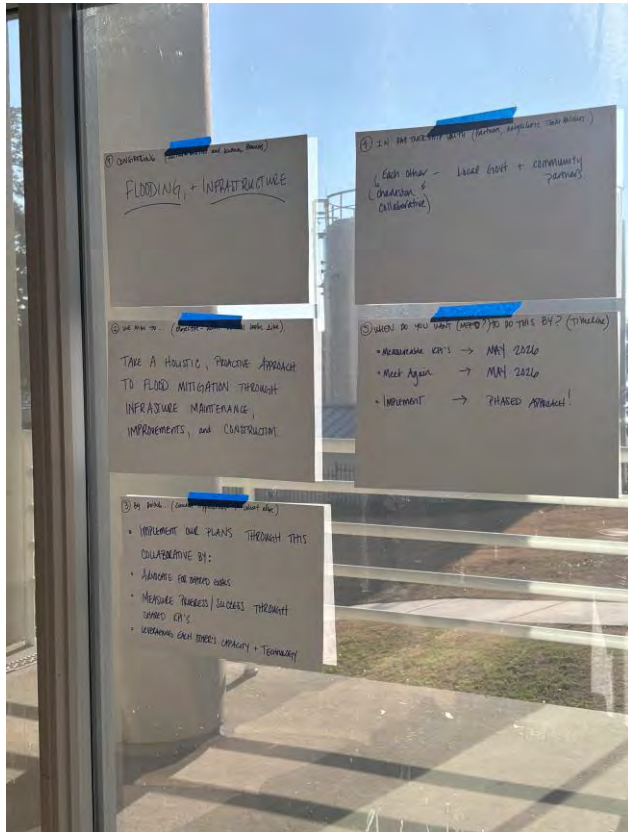


Insufficient Staff Capacity and Technical Expertise

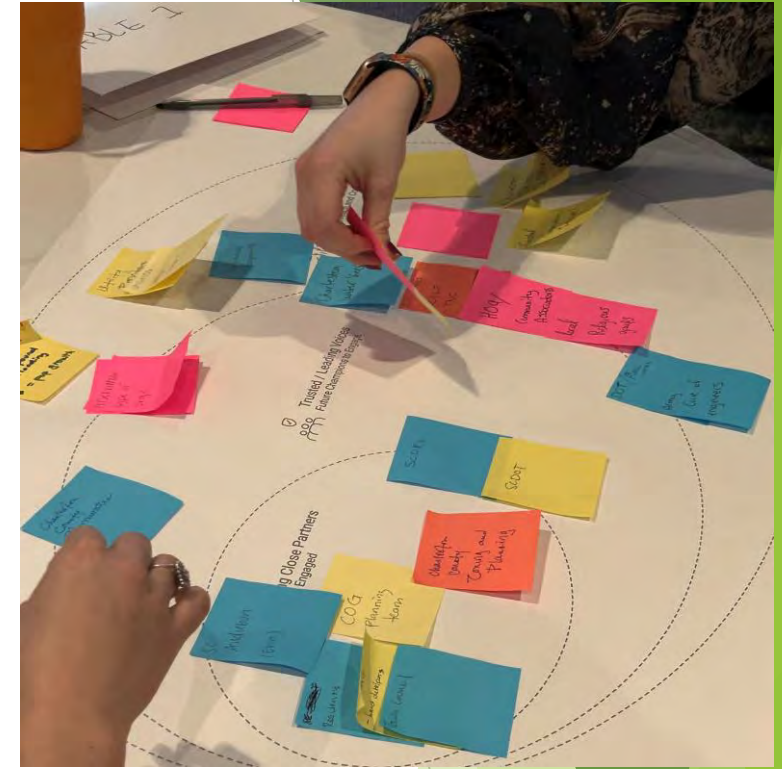


Resistance to Innovative and Green Infrastructure Solutions

Resilience Accelerator Workshop February 2026



- ▶ Over 40 local government practitioners - county convening
- ▶ How are we collectively acting on our plans?
- ▶ Developed impact statements and action items.



Early insights from the Accelerator Workshop

- ▶ There is a disconnect between planning and implementation.
- ▶ **The meaning of “education”.**
- ▶ The trust deficit is both a delivery problem and a storytelling problem.
- ▶ Capacity inequity is compounding outcomes.

The Charleston Resilience Collaborative will...



Centralize data. Give every municipality access to the same baseline information so decisions are comparable, transparent, and equity-driven.



Coordinate projects. Align resilience investments so they reinforce one another instead of competing for limited funds.



Support implementation. Provide technical assistance, templates, and **staff capacity where it's needed**—so **local teams don't shoulder extra** work, they get leverage.



Measure results. KPIs show whether projects reduce risk, improve equity, and move the needle on recovery time and cost.

Next Steps: Moving from Vision to Action

- ▶ Reconvene in May 2026
 - ▶ Disseminate findings from the Accelerator Workshop
 - ▶ Determine strategies for implementation by the Collaborative
- ▶ Deep dive into the Hazard Vulnerability Assessment Data Portfolio
 - ▶ Trainings on using vulnerability assessment data (AccelAdapt)
 - ▶ Develop metrics for resilience based on HVA data.



Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

- ▶ Trident VOAD supported winter weather response in January 2026.
 - ▶ Coordination calls and resource requests.
- ▶ Trident VOAD Activation TTX - February 19, 2026.
- ▶ Will support heat kit assembly and distribution this spring.
- ▶ Governor designated March 8-14, 2026, as South Carolina Severe Weather & Flood Safety Week.
 - ▶ Statewide Tornado Drill, March 11 @ 9:00am
 - ▶ https://www.weather.gov/cae/SC_Severe_Weather_Preparedness_Week



Residential Weatherization and Energy Audit Update

- ▶ 19/20 Energy Audits done
- ▶ 4/8 Weatherization's done
 - ▶ 2 more scheduled this week

Initial Energy Audit

▶ Initial Energy Audit Results

- ▶ CO2 Footprint: 3.9 Tons
- ▶ Estimated Savings: \$313 per year
- ▶ Estimated Energy reduction 14.18%

▶ Proposed work

- ▶ Secure Flood Hood
- ▶ Upgrade Lighting
- ▶ Insulate Attic to R 38
- ▶ Seal Air Leaks: 25%



Uninsulated Attic



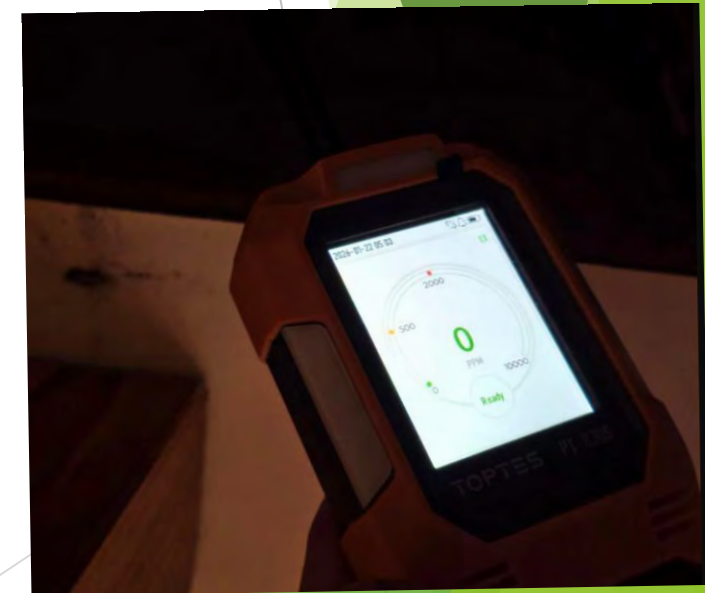
Unsecure Flood Hood

Post Weatherization

- ▶ Post Weatherization Results
 - ▶ CO2 Savings: 1 Ton
 - ▶ Energy Cost Savings: \$406 per year
 - ▶ Energy Savings: 17.83%
- ▶ Additional Work
 - ▶ During weatherization, a gas leak was found. Sustainability Institute repaired and home passed all applicable BPI health and safety criteria.



Gas leak found



After Repairs

Sustainability Report

► First Sustainability Plan Annual Report

- Highlights Key Accomplishments
- Breaks down Implementation Strategies and Initiatives happening
- Outreach Events
- County EV Statistics
- Charleston Compost - Now shifting to County Leading
- Key Sustainability Projects Happening
- Access to the Full sustainability Initiative Inventory

► Can be accessed on our website this week

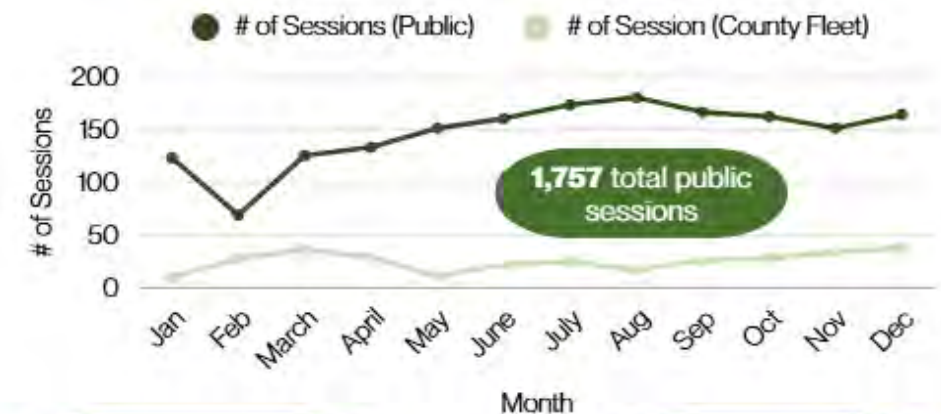
Three new food waste drop sites opened in 2025

- Mosstree Park
 - City of North Charleston
- Martin Park
 - City of Charleston
- School of Natural & Environmental Science
 - College of Charleston



10

EV Charger Usage



9,014 total miles driven in 2025 County EV's

2.9 Metric tons of CO2e prevented

8

Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee: Charleston County

MARCH 10, 2026

Presented by :
Mika Gadsden, Director of Sustainability
City of Charleston



ReLEAF Tree Planting Initiative

Progress Update and Looking Forward



We extend our deepest gratitude to Clark DeCiantis and his exceptional Urban Forestry team. Their leadership has been instrumental in transforming the ReLEAF initiative into a full-fledged, impactful program.

By applying their deep expertise, knowledge, and steadfast commitment to established best practices as detailed in the City of Charleston's Street Tree Manual, they have successfully launched our first plantings at the Ashley Town Center Drive location.

Following these rigorous standards is the best way to ensure our work not only strengthens Charleston's natural environment today but also creates a legacy of shade, beauty, and resilience that will benefit generations of Charlestonians for years to come.



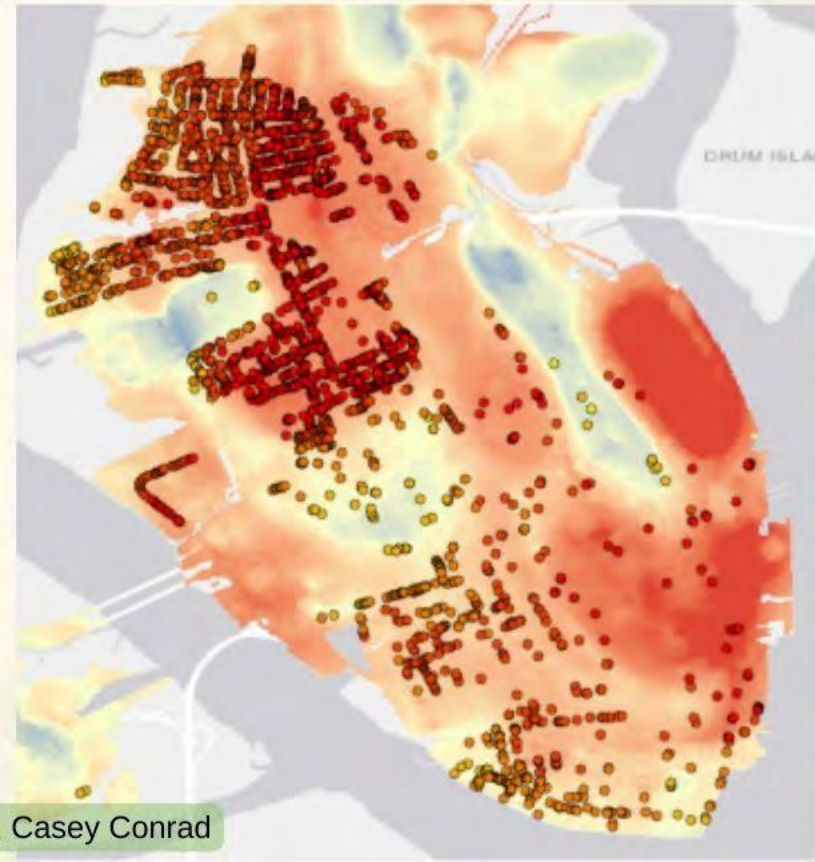
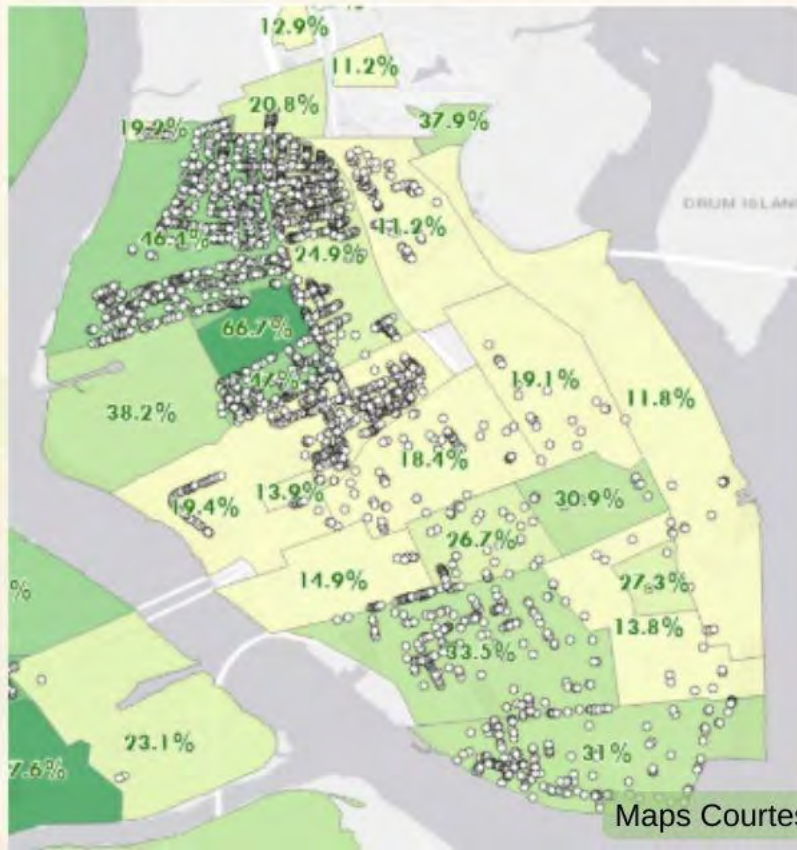
PRIORITIZING PLANTING SITES

Vacant Tree Wells & Canopy Cover

The map on the left displays possible available planting sites relative to current street tree shade, highlighting the areas with the greatest need.

Vacant Tree Wells & Heat Vulnerability

On the right, the map shows where new tree plantings can have the greatest impact on reducing afternoon temperatures and improving resident comfort.



Maps Courtesy of GIS Analyst, Casey Conrad





12 New Live Oaks

8 New Live Oaks

Ashley Town Center Dr

Planting Day: 2/24/26

Arbor Pro Existing Trees

● New Live Oak (20)

●

20 Trees

Overhead Utility 10ft Buffer



1 inch equals 164 feet



Map Courtesy of GIS Analyst, Casey Conrad



ReLEAF Tree Planting Initiative

Progress Update and Looking Forward

- **Next Up: Planting #2 at West Ashley Circle (near Walmart) – Tuesday.** The Urban Forestry team will add 14 Chinese Pistache trees.
- **On Deck: Planting #3 at Floyd Drive (near Walmart) is targeted for later next week.**



West Ashley Cir/Floyd (40 wells)

Much of West Ashley Circle has young trees but this section and the adjacent Floyd Dr do not. Highly visible with the Walmart and future Chick-Fil-A (sponsorship opportunity?)



City of Charleston
Department of Information Technology
GIS Division
7 DeLoach St, 3rd 2000
Charleston, SC 29403
www.charleston.gov



Tree Condition



Important Disclaimer Notice
The City of Charleston maintains records, responsibilities or liability as to the content, accuracy, reliability, completeness or availability of any information provided herein as derived from the mapping data for any reason. The City of Charleston neither warrants, nor represents, nor guarantees, including without limitation, the digital content of this publication and therefor a particular purpose. The user hereby waives any and all claims for damages against the City of Charleston, including the City of Charleston, for any use of the public information from the mapping data.



Upcoming Events

- ▶ Black Expo
 - ▶ Saturday, March 14th 10:30am- 5pm
- ▶ Native Plant Sale: With Greenbelt
 - ▶ Saturday, March 21st 9am-11am
- ▶ MUSC Earth Day Fair
 - ▶ Thursday, April 16th 11am -2pm
- ▶ Home Energy Savings Workshop: With CCPL, Sustainability Institute & Mt. Pleasant
 - ▶ Thursday, April 16th 11am -12pm
- ▶ Compost Facility Tour: With Environmental Management
 - ▶ Saturday, May 16th Times TBD



2026 Meeting Dates

Quarterly @ 9:30 - 11:00 AM

- ▶ June 9, 2026
- ▶ September 1, 2026
- ▶ December 8, 2026