Charleston County Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee (RSAC) Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2026

RSAC ATTENDEES
Stewart Weinberg, Sally Brooks (Planning and Zoning), Kristin Minguez (BCDCOG), Jacob Gamble (Chamber of Commerce), Adrian Cain (Homebuilders Association), Scott Harris (College of Charleston)

PUBLIC ATTENDEES
Mika Gadsden (Director of Sustainability, City of Charleston)
Catherine Min (South Carolina Office of Resilience)
Amelia Guerry (South Carolina Office of Resilience)
Dylan McGuire (Costal Conservation League)
Amya Hargrove (Palmetto Goodwill)

COUNTY STAFF
Molly Caggiano, Alexandra Petruch, Walter Smalls, Kristoff Haspel-Talavera

ABSENT
Rev. Dr. Kylon Jerome Middleton (Charleston County Council Chairman)
Scott Runyon (Dominion Energy)
Scott Curtis (Citadel)

CALL TO ORDER
Stewart Weinberg called the Charleston County RSAC meeting to order at 9:37am.
FOIA compliance and media acknowledgement announced.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS' REMARKS
- Approved meeting minutes at 9:37am from December 9, 2025
    - Motion to approve introduced by Stewart Weinberg. Motion was approved unanimously.

TOPICS DISCUSSED

Membership Review

- Stewart Weinberg - term ends in December 2026
- Sally Brooks - term ends in December 2026
- Jacob Gamble - New Member, Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce
- Kristen Miguez - New Member, BCDCOG

Resilience Updates

Resilience & Sustainability Symposium (November 2025)

- The Multi-Hazard Vulnerability Assessment was completed in October 2024. It outlines our vulnerabilities and strategies to address them.
- BCDCOG and the Urban Land Institute facilitated the Reality Check 2.0 workshop in May 2025. The region identified guiding principles and implementation strategies to address population growth, infrastructure improvements, and climate impacts as a region.
- The R&S Division hosted the Symposium to convene all partners working on projects and initiatives related to resilience and sustainability countywide, and understand the alignment across all sectors and disciplines. A breakout session was designed for public sector employees, and they identified barriers they faced moving from planning to implementation.

Resilience Accelerator (February 2026)

- Building off previous efforts, the Accelerator workshop aimed to set the table for the launch of the Charleston Resilience Collaborative – a group intended to help align work across partners and make it easier to move forward projects and address Charleston County's biggest resilience challenges.
- The Collaborative's scope may include centralizing data, coordinating projects, supporting implementation, and measuring results of resilience efforts.
- A Final Report from the Accelerator Workshop is forthcoming.

Comments on the Resilience Accelerator Workshop

- It was great to see the enthusiasm of everyone there. Nobody walked away saying, "why am I here?" (Stewart Weinberg)
- Creating "Impact Statements" was a was a very impactful exercise. We made statements that were not impossible to achieve, but that would take some effort and coordination. I hope each table left with a sense that they had the power to do something that would make a difference. (Kristen Minguez)

- It was important to hear about similar challenges that are faced across the region, and to make connections with people. We had a chance to talk about ways to help local government staff in their daily work. (Sally Brooks)

Trident VOAD

- The Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) group is the human-centered focus of resilience, whereas the Resilience Collaborative is the group focusing on infrastructure resilience and the built and natural environment.
- VOAD supported the winter weather response in January in 2026 by coordinating resource sharing between Charleston County EMD, warming centers, shelters, and other humanitarian relief organizations.

Sustainability Updates

EECBG GRANT for Weatherization Audits

- 19/20 Audits done
- 4/8 Weatherization done
- 2 more for this week

Energy Audit report

- Co2 Savings – 1Ton
- Savings – 406$ per year
- 17.83% energy reduction

2025 Sustainability Report

- 6 EVS (2 Nissan Leaf's, 2 ford lightings trucks, 2 mustang Mach-e)
    - After driving the F-150 Lightning EV Truck, he Director of Environmental Management purchased one for his department.
- Charleston Compost
    - Charleston Composts is now administered by the county.
    - The City initiated the program and did an amazing job, and now it's expanding beyond the city's reach.

Project updates

- Residential Energy Audit
- Energy Savings Performance Contract

Outreach events

- Compost workshops, Trunk or Treat, Sea Rise Stroll, Staff energy savings workshop, Symposium

Re-Leaf Project

Mika Gadsden, Director of Sustainability, City of Charleston

- Re-Leaf – tree planting initiative
  - First plantings at Ashley Towne Center Drive
- Vacant Tree well study - identifying where to set goals and meet community needs.
- Next Sites
  - West Ashley Circle
  - Floyed Drive

Comments on Re-Leaf

- Every municipality can participate in this project. Nothing is ever truly "easy," but this feels more achievable than some of the larger initiatives we've discussed. Tree planting has so many benefits. It helps with flooding, it builds canopy for shade, and it reduces heat. Mika mentioned, we have walkways and paths that are technically accessible, but they're unusable because there's no shade. We want people to walk, but the environment doesn't support it.
- "Perhaps each community could develop its own tree-planting program, with a shared countywide goal. For example, planting a certain number of trees across Charleston County in 2026 or 2027."- Stewart Weinberg

Upcoming Events

- Black Expo
- Native Plant Sale
- MUSC Earth Day Fair
- Home Energy Savings Workshop
- Compost Facility Tour

Proposed Meeting Dates

- March 10th, 2026
- June 9th, 2026
- September 1st, 2026
- December 8th, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT

Call for Public Comment by Chair at 10:23am

- Dylan McGuire (Coastal Conservation League): Commending the R&S team for all the great work, and looking forward to both the compost facility tour and the home energy savings workshop. Also commending the work that Mika's doing with the ReLeaf Project.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, June 9th, 2026

CHAIR REMARKS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair, Stewart Weinberg, adjourned the meeting at 10:24am with unanimous approval.

Ratified by the Charleston County Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee this 10th day of March 2026.

(Chair)

Attest:

Administrative Officer - Resilience

Administrative Officer - Sustainability