

ANNUAL REPORT

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION NETWORK
2020-2021





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**VCN IS A PROUD MEMBER
PARTNER OF THE FOLLOWING
ORGANIZATIONS:**



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year's Annual Report comes at the end of a year unlike any other in our Commonwealth.

The VCN 2020-2021 Program Year - much like all of our own lives - was largely defined by the COVID-19 pandemic. We adapted to working together through virtual meetings, including a Special General Assembly session over the summer and into the fall and the 2021 regular session this winter.



Saying that, there was still plenty of action off-screen. Our parks, trails, and river banks saw record attendance as individuals looked for safe places to spend time with friends at a distance. Throughout the summer and fall we saw increased civic engagement in the form of protests for Black Lives and the largest voter turnout in a presidential election ever thanks to increased voting options such as mail-in ballots and no-excuse early voting. On-screen, VCN Partners saw increased attendance for online advocacy and educational webinars as individuals looked for ways to stay engaged from home.

Throughout the year, VCN's Network of 150 organizations stayed vigilant, educated the public, and made a case for policy change through a critical year for climate action, Chesapeake Bay restoration, and wildlife protection. Thanks to strong coordinated action, we had another banner year as a Network - delivering real results for our environment despite the challenge of working primarily remotely.

As we enter the Spring with a glimmer of hope that we'll soon be able to see each other in person again, I'm feeling incredibly proud of our Network and our supporters. Thanks to the vision and hard work of many, we've built a long-term network that was ready to sustain the changes the past year threw at us. Having established, trusted relationships and a designated place to share resources has proven an incredible asset, clearly visible in the real progress we made. Our progress through a pandemic is a testament to the importance of building these networks over time.

While I'm looking forward to seeing you all in person soon - I'm so grateful for all we accomplished together (virtually) this year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MR'.

Mary Rafferty
Executive Director

FIGHTING FOR CONSERVATION VICTORIES YEAR-ROUND



VCN's team coordinates the conservation community year-round to build a shared policy agenda and the public support it needs to be successful. This is accomplished through a three-step process: Develop Our Common Agenda, Educate the Public, and Advocate and Mobilize. In 2020 - 2021, VCN along with our Partners learned how to move this entire process to a virtual landscape.

1 DEVELOP OUR COMMON AGENDA

Our Common Agenda is the shared set of policy priorities crafted over a multi-month process and then pursued by our broader partnership through strategic campaigns. Our Common Agenda is published annually through the Briefing Book. Written by our leading conservation advocates, it provides an in-depth analysis of the leading conservation issues facing Virginia and provides practical, state-level policy solutions.

VCN kicked off our 2021 Common Agenda process in the Spring, when we ran long-form planning meetings virtually for the first time. Our workgroups continued to meet monthly year-round to plan, strategize, and share information.

VCN facilitates four main workgroups:

- Clean Energy / Climate
- Land Use and Transportation
- Healthy Rivers / Chesapeake Bay (in partnership with the Choose Clean Water Coalition)
- Land Conservation (in partnership with VaULT)

150+

Network
Partners

4

Initiatives

1

Common
Agenda



Published amidst the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Briefing Book focused on solutions that prioritized public health, access to the outdoors, and reviving local economies. Coming off historic policy wins in 2020, the 2021 policy agenda had an increased focus on tackling pollution from the transportation sector – Virginia's largest source of carbon pollution – while looking to enforce and enhance the climate gains made the previous year. With just a few years until Virginia's deadline to meet our goals in the Chesapeake Bay clean-up plan, the policy agenda increased the urgency around clean water investments that have proven successful over the last decade. As our trails, campgrounds, and waterways faced record visitors seeking safe, fresh air getaways, policy solutions focused on increasing access to the outdoors.

Each policy was reviewed by our internal environmental justice review committee. The committee reviewed the policies to ensure that they will not negatively impact vulnerable communities, particularly lower income Virginians, rural populations, and communities of color. The committee also looked for opportunities in our policies to lift up these historically marginalized groups.

Once the Common Agenda is set, VCN works with our Partners to build public support for our shared priorities through media coverage, coalition building, public education, and events.

ADVOCACY TRAININGS & ACTION GUIDES

In 2020, VCN published the first edition Conservation Action Guide for advocating on the policies within the Common Agenda Briefing Book. The Action Guide was published in concert with a three-part activist training where attendees learned how policy is crafted, how policy is passed through the General Assembly, and how to build a year-long relationship with policymakers.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PREVIEW

In preparation for Virginia's General Assembly session, VCN and its Network Partners convene for a preview of what's in store for our natural landscapes and resources. More than 350 members of Virginia's conservation community tuned in virtually to hear experts discuss what to expect. After remarks from Partners, we were joined by the Governor's Legislative Director for insider tips on engaging with lawmakers and then participants broke out by legislative district for localized planning and outreach.

EVERYBODY VOTE (EARLY!) IN 2020

Virginia was one of many states that made it easier to vote by mail and vote early in 2020. VCN worked to ensure the conservation community turned out to vote by setting up a central place for our Partners and their members to see the updated deadlines for registration, voting by mail, and voting in-person. We launched <http://www.vcnva.org/vote/> and pushed out updates via email, blog, and social media throughout the fall ahead of key deadlines. This work was done in coordination with the Virginia Civic Engagement Table.



3

ADVOCATE & MOBILIZE

When the Assembly begins in January, VCN lobbies for the Common Agenda. VCN has a team of advocates in the General Assembly building to track legislation, advance our policies, and coordinate Partner advocacy.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE & BILL TRACKER

The VCN Legislative Committee provides an opportunity for advocates to share information, strategize, and request that VCN take public positions on bills in the General Assembly. This group is chaired and facilitated by Network Partners. This year's co-chairs were Anna Killius, James River Association's Policy Analyst and Kim Jemaine, Chesapeake Climate Action Network's Virginia Director.

The public positions taken by VCN's Legislative Committee and Board of Directors are made available weekly on the VCN website and include talking points for the positions taken. VCN took positions on 82 bills in the 2021 Session and tracked 158 bills.

LOBBY DAY

VCN invites volunteer advocates to join professional staff to meet in groups to lobby their state legislators for our annual Lobby Day. Advocates encourage their legislators to support the conservation and climate policies included in Our Common Agenda. This year we hosted our first ever virtual lobby day!

More than 220 conservation advocates completed 50 meetings over Zoom, lobbying for legislation including electrifying our transportation, reforming utility regulation, increasing the state's conservation budget, and other important goals for the conservation community.

PROTECTING VIRGINIA'S WATER RESOURCES

In order to keep nutrient and sediment pollution out of our stormwater runoff and encourage flood mitigation, the state passed several bills that encourage pollution reduction practices through strong and equitable funding. With the passage of matching **grant funding through the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund**, localities are enabled to implement measures that are part of their comprehensive flood mitigation and protection plans.

Localities can now **adopt higher tree replacement percentages requirements** so that more trees will be planted to improve water quality, flood prevention, and equity goals for cleaning the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Lead campaign Partners: *Chesapeake Bay Foundation, James River Association, and Sierra Club Virginia Chapter.*

Virginians' health, communities, and natural areas are under siege from plastics, which are found in our air, water, and soil. The balloon release ban reduces plastic waste by **prohibiting the intentional outdoor release of balloons**, which is littering. Balloon-related litter is one of the top 5 forms of debris found on Virginia's beaches and is especially dangerous to marine life as it is often mistaken as food.

The ban of expanded polystyrene foam, aka Styrofoam™, as a food takeout container takes effect for food vendors and other entities starting in 2023. The reduced use and disposal of foam food packaging

means a drastic reduction in the microplastics that currently make up 40% of plastic litter in our waterways. Lead campaign Partners: *Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, Lynnhaven River NOW, and Environment Virginia.*

Despite the victories in reducing plastic pollution at its source, we also encountered new challenges in plastic waste. "Advanced recycling," a greenwashed term for the chemical conversion of plastic waste through superheating, will now be able to operate throughout Virginia without regulation under solid waste law. Advanced recycling is neither an economically or environmentally sustainable process to either reduce or recycle plastic. There is continued work needed to educate lawmakers and the public to ensure appropriate, reasonable standards are in place for these facilities. Lead campaign Partners: *Clean Fairfax, Virginia League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, Potomac Riverkeepers Network, Surfrider Foundation, and Environment Virginia.*

The General Assembly established a working group to study the **toxic environmental and community impacts of gold mining and processing** in response to proposed gold strip mining sites by a Canadian prospecting company. Unfortunately, the moratorium to pause the open-pit gold mine project in Buckingham County was ultimately removed from the bill. Lead campaign Partner: *Virginia League of Conservation Voters*

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline - Finally Defeated

After more than six years of environmental violations, vacated permits, and strong resistance from communities across the Commonwealth, Dominion Energy's Atlantic Coast Pipeline project was canceled on July 5, 2020. This announcement came thanks to the commitment and persistence of many VCN Partners over several years.

This win comes after years of advocacy and organizing and shows that the movement for bold climate action and environmental justice is stronger than ever. Thanks to policy wins such as the Virginia Clean Economy Act and the Environmental Justice Act in 2020, projects that contribute to climate change and take advantage of low income communities and communities of color will continue to become less viable. Advocates' attention remains focused on the Mountain Valley Pipeline, along with fighting additional new fossil fuel infrastructure. We continue to have a lot of work to do in our continued efforts to fight climate change and restore environmental injustice – but this a huge win and step in the right direction.





CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S LANDSCAPES & WILDLIFE

As Virginia continues to respond to COVID-19, we have the opportunity to re-envision our food systems through ensuring healthy and productive farming practices, funding strategic investments in local food production capacity, and guaranteeing clean water for all. **Agricultural best management practices (or BMPs) are the most cost-effective investments to improve water quality** in local streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay.

By establishing the **Virginia Agriculture Food Assistance Program & Fund and the Local Food and Farming Infrastructure Grant Program**, and through providing innovative tax credits for the implementation of agricultural BMPs, we are creating more and equitable incentives for farm owners and producers which are necessary to achieve our water quality goals for the Chesapeake Bay. Lead campaign Partners: *Capital Region Land Conservancy, Virginia Association for Biological Farming, and Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley*

Building on the **Virginia Wildlife Corridor Action Plan (WCAP)** from last year, this year state agencies will integrate wildlife corridors identified in the WCAP into

their own strategic planning guidance processes. This will help ensure that critical wildlife corridors are both identified and protected across Virginia and agency jurisdictions, further protecting both wildlife and automobile drivers from collisions. Lead campaign Partners: *Wild Virginia and Wildlands Network*

Conservation easements are a critical tool for protecting Virginia's most valuable habitats: working farms and forests, scenic viewsheds, and cultural landscapes. Virginia code was clarified so that the courts can interpret easement terms based on the **original intent of the conservation easement donation and their protection of public benefits**. Lead campaign Partner: *Piedmont Environmental Council and The Nature Conservancy*

An **Invasive Plant Species study** will allow for the exploration of options for phasing out the commercial propagation and sale of invasive plants in Virginia which outcompete native plants, adversely impact wildlife habitat, have few or no native controls, and cost millions of taxpayer dollars at the local, state, and federal levels to manage. Lead campaign Partner: *Piedmont Environmental Council*

ENSURING A SUFFICIENT CONSERVATION BUDGET

Investment in our natural resources is essential to ensure that every Virginian has equitable access to healthy food, clean air and water, and outdoor opportunities - particularly as our Commonwealth and the nation face an unprecedented public health crisis.

Allocated funding to meet our Chesapeake Bay cleanup goals by 2025 includes:

- \$65 million for the Virginia Agriculture Cost Share program
- \$75 million for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund
- \$100 million for the Enhanced Nutrient Removal Certainty Program
- \$60,000 for the ongoing PFAS Drinking Water Study
- \$500,000 for the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program
- \$250,000 to study the impacts of gold strip mining
- \$250,000 for student Environmental Education opportunities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed
- \$1.1 million for Erosion & Sediment Control program

Virginia's protected landscapes safeguard our game and nongame wildlife, keep our creeks and rivers clean, and spur our outdoor recreation economy. Virginia received the following funding to meet our land

conservation goals through land conservation grant programs:

- \$10 million for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
- \$750,000 to the Farmland Preservation Fund
- Up to \$10 million for multi-use trails

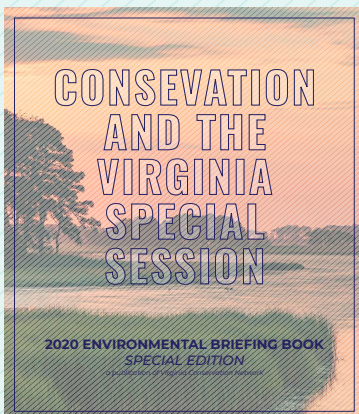
Transportation represents the largest source of carbon pollution in Virginia. In order to build a more sustainable future, we need to shift to a cleaner, stronger, and more equitable transportation system. Virginia received the following funding to expand public transportation, grow rail capacity, and boost safe walking and biking infrastructure:

- \$167 million to extend intercity passenger rail service from Roanoke to the New River Valley
- Up to \$10 million to the Transit Ridership Incentive Program
- Up to \$900,000 for a Transit Equity & modernization Study
- \$50,000 for a study on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

Lead campaign Partners: *James River Association, The Nature Conservancy, SELC, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Piedmont Environmental Council*

Special Session Preserved Critical Conservation Funding

Over the summer, the legislature convened for a special session to address budget impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as other urgent issues including racial equity and justice. VCN released a special edition, mini-Briefing Book focused mainly on the importance of maintaining hard-earned conservation policy, including investments in the budget which are critical to protecting our health and our natural landscapes.



Investing in our natural resources is essential to ensure every Virginian has access to clean air, clean water, and our natural landscapes. This is particularly true as our Commonwealth and the nation face an

unprecedented public health crisis.

We urged the General Assembly to keep in mind that investments in natural resources will not only further our longstanding environmental goals, but will help relieve the economic and health-related impacts of our prolonged battle with this pandemic. To this end, we advocated to maintain conservation investments as closely to the originally passed budget as possible.

VCN supported the funding of the following programs:

- Virginia Agriculture Cost Share program
- Stormwater Local Assistance Fund
- Virginia Land Conservation Fund
- Land Conservation Tax Credit
- Funding for transit, rail, and cleaner transportation alternatives
- Fully restored funding for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), including environmental justice and outreach initiatives

ENSURING AN EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNMENT

Building on the **Environmental Justice Act of 2020**, the omnibus Environmental Justice house bill sought to require government agencies at the state and local level to take specific actions to advance environmental justice which unequally burden Virginians along lines of race, income, and geography. The senate version would codify the supporting Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group. Although both bills were the subject of much debate and had several amendments, in the final hours of the special session, these bills died in conference with the House and Senate remaining far apart on EJ policy. We are disappointed to see the General Assembly fail to make any gains. Lead campaign Partners: *Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative and New Virginia Majority*

Since 2017, Dominion Energy has overcharged Virginians over \$500 million. An important series of

bills aimed to lower ratepayers bills, allow refunds of overcharges, and restore the State Corporation Commission's (SCC) oversight to set fair rates. Despite support from the House and strong advocacy from the conservation and clean energy community, the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee was **more concerned about hurting Dominion's profits than protecting ratepayers from overcharges and rejected these bills.**

We are extremely disappointed to see these bills fail in the Senate committee after bi-partisan support in the House. We are committed to continuing our work toward a fair and affordable electricity rate structure as we move forward on our path towards a 100% clean electricity grid. Lead campaign Partners: *Clean Virginia and SELC*

PHOTO: SHENANDOAH VALLEY MUSTARD FIELD BY CHRIS ANDERSON



POWERING VIRGINIA WITH CLEAN ENERGY

Improving energy efficiency standards in new construction is crucial to lower energy bills, reduce demand for energy generation, and reduce carbon emissions in the Commonwealth. This also reduces the need for utilities and the General Assembly to subsidize retrofits of inefficient buildings in the future. While proposed legislation would bring Virginia's current building code up to national standards from the Uniform Statewide Building Code, the final language **merely requires the Housing Board to consider adopting building codes from the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).**

Fortunately, another building code bill passed that will require state and local government buildings to be constructed or renovated to include electric vehicle charging infrastructure and the ability to track energy efficiency and carbon emissions. Lead campaign Partners: *Sierra Club of Virginia and Drive Electric RVA.*

In an effort to minimize community impacts from the closure of local power plants, **power plant owners will review every three years whether the carbon-emitting plants should be retired** and give notice to state and local leaders within 30 days of the decision to retire. Lead campaign Partner: *Appalachian Voices*

Strong incentives for clean energy investment are critical for local workforce development and meeting our clean energy goals. This session saw a mixed bag of results for clean energy funding and financing.

Last year's **Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)** loan legislation was amended to

include projects from the previous two years, but explicitly excluded residential properties of less than five units (single family homes, duplexes, and small condominiums).

Local authorities can now establish **local Green Banks**, which are important financing mechanisms to create jobs in low- to moderate-income communities that otherwise might not receive financing for clean energy and energy efficiency.

The Brightfields Act established the **Virginia Brownfield and Coal Mine Renewable Energy Grant Fund** which could award grants up to \$35 million/year on a competitive basis to support wind, solar, or geothermal projects sited on formerly mined lands or brownfields. However, there will be no allocation of state grant funds unless federal funds are available for this program.

Last year's **Percentage of Payment Program (PIPP)** under the Virginia Clean Economy Act was amended to clarify language, ease legislative obstacles, and lower barriers for participation in this energy efficiency program.

Simply increasing access to renewable energy can enable cheaper energy options for consumers. This year, **solar Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)** availability was extended into SW Virginia. Furthermore, project approval requirements were streamlined for energy storage and hybrid projects, making them more feasible to implement in the Commonwealth.

Lead campaign Partners: *Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, Appalachian Voices, Virginia League of Conservation Voters, and Sierra Club Virginia Chapter*

PHOTO: PUNGO FERRY BY YUNG-HAN CHANG



TRANSFORMING TRANSPORTATION & BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

As people sought safe exercise options like walking and biking during the pandemic, Virginia's pedestrian death rate hit a record high, with fatalities rising by [17 percent](#). In response, we pushed for and won an entire slate of bills to make active transportation safer, more comfortable, and more accessible to all Virginians. To that end, the biggest win of 2021 was the **Bicycle Safety Act**, which gives cyclists a full lane when passing, allows people on bikes to ride side-by-side, and calls for a study of a "safety yield" to reduce crashes at stop signs. Other legislation focuses on deploying high-visibility "zebra" crosswalks and allowing localities to lower speed limits to as little as 15 mph in residential areas and business districts. Lead campaign Partners: *Virginia Bike Federation & Bike Walk RVA*

In 2019, Virginia recorded its highest ever public transit ridership in over half a century. For many Virginians, the pandemic put a pause on their commute. In order to best serve our essential workers who continue to ride transit and to entice new waves of Virginians back onto the bus, Metro, and Tide light rail in order to lower our state's growing vehicle miles traveled, we know our public transit needs an upgrade. Thankfully, lawmakers this session passed a landmark suite of bills designed to modernize our public transportation system, build more sustainable communities, and lower air pollution across the Commonwealth, which includes:

- A **Transit Equity & Modernization Study** to estimate the cost of adding transit necessities such as benches and shelters, bus electrification, GPS tracking, integrated payments, and more.
- A **stakeholder study of accessory living units** to provide Virginians with more affordable, lower carbon impact housing options.
- The **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit** to create incentives for developers to build affordable, transit-oriented housing.

Lead campaign Partners: *Virginia Interfaith Power and Light, New Virginia Majority, RVA Rapid Transit, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, the Coalition for Smarter Growth, and SELC*

The **Clean Car Standards** will require manufacturers to send a percentage of low- and zero-emission electric vehicles to dealerships, ensuring Virginia dealerships will be included in the list of priority states to receive a bigger variety of affordable electric vehicles for consumers.

Also included in the package of electrification policy is one of the most **equitable and well-targeted EV incentives in the country**, with equal point-of-sale rebates for both new and used electric vehicles. Despite the bill passing, the final budget didn't include any funding. This is a missed opportunity to advance cleaner cars in Virginia, and we hope to see future funding to reduce the number of gas-guzzling vehicles on Virginia's roadways. Lead campaign Partners: *SELC, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Virginia League of Conservation Voters, Gen180, Virginia Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, and Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action.*

For the second year in a row, **lawmakers rejected Dominion's plan to electrify school buses**. Ultimately, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle shared our concerns around the potential for Dominion's proposal to become unreasonably expensive and not adequately account for the needs of schools, parents, and kids. As fleet electrification becomes ever more important to combat the climate crisis, VCN partner groups have committed to working toward solutions that balance rapid deployment with reasonable costs. Lead campaign partners: *Mothers Out Front, Appalachian Voices, Clean Virginia, and SELC.*



VCN STAFF



VCN staff volunteered with our Partners at Friends of the Rappahannock for Earth Day, planting over 750 trees at Belle Isle State Park.

We regret that Kyle isn't pictured, but are happy that our friends at FoR could join us at our campsite for the group photo!

Mary Rafferty

Executive Director

Pat Calvert

Senior Policy & Campaigns Manager – Land & Water

Victoria Higgins

Civic Engagement & Grassroots Campaigns Manager

Lisa McLaughlin

Operations Manager

Wyatt Gordon

Policy & Campaigns Manager – Land Use & Transportation

Kyle Gatlin

Partner Resources Manager

Nicole Duimstra

Communications & Campaigns Manager

Narissa Turner

Policy & Campaigns Manager – Climate & Energy

Addressing a Year, and Centuries, of Racism

Structural racism exists not only within our country but has also historically existed within the broader conservation community. Now more than ever, we must listen, reflect, and focus on dismantling the inequitable structures within our own organizations - organizations that are disproportionately run by white individuals and overly representative of white communities - while building out a more inclusive movement that lifts up leaders and communities of color.

VCN has been working internally over the last three years on a plan to build a more equitable and diverse organization and Network. This work was further prioritized this summer when VCN, along with over 30 of our Partners, publicly stood in support of the Black Lives Matter movement in the wake of the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and countless others. We know action is more important than words. Later in the fall, VCN released a public equity and justice plan to our Network Partners, putting in place key initiatives to build a more just and inclusive movement in 2021 and beyond. This plan was written with feedback from VCN staff, board, and Network Partners and we made a commitment to update it annually.

VCN has identified that our role in this work starts with addressing the culture and capacity of our own organization and our Network Partner's organizations.

We acknowledge that these are merely the first steps and are committed to expanding this work.

ANNUAL MEETING WELCOMED 4 NEW BOARD MEMEBERS

Our Annual Meeting occurred virtually on September 22nd. The agenda included remarks from candidates running for Governor, a deep dive into our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice plan, a roll-call from partners, and featured a keynote address from Dr. Drew Lanham, the self-proclaimed “Black Birder”.

During the Annual Meeting, VCN also welcomed four new board members. As the partnership of conservation organizations in Virginia, VCN is proud that our board is voted on annually by our Network Partners. New board members include: Pamela Bingham, an engineer by trade and leader in the environmental justice community from Petersburg; Roberta Kellam, former member of the VA Water Board and leader in wildlife conservation from the Eastern Shore; Jeanette Cadwallader, former President of the Garden Club of Virginia and long-time conservationist from Fredericksburg, and Kate Wofford, Executive Director of the Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley.



PAMELA BINGHAM

*President,
Bingham Consulting Services*



JEANETTE CADWALLENDER

*Former President,
Garden Club of Virginia*



ROBERTA KELLAM

*Chair,
Eastern Shore of Virginia
Birding and Wildlife Programs*



KATE WOFFORD

*Executive Director,
Alliance for the
Shenandoah Valley*

VCN NETWORK PARTNERS

Founded as the Conservation Council of Virginia in 1969, Virginia Conservation Network (VCN) began as a roundtable of major conservation groups and has grown to include over 125 Network Partners across the Commonwealth. VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.

VCN's Network Partners work on a wide range of issues from stream restoration to transportation reform to renewable energy advancement to promoting sustainable community growth and more. Given the diverse work of our Partners, VCN organizes its programs into four main categories: Healthy Rivers, Clean Energy and Climate, Land Conservation, and Land Use and Transportation.

BALD EAGLE



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CARDINAL

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay · Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley · Appalachian Citizens' Law Center · Blue Ridge Land Conservancy · Chesapeake Legal Alliance · Community Climate Collaborative · Environment Virginia · Foundation Earth · Friends of the Rappahannock · Generation 180 · James River Garden Club · Lynnhaven River NOW · Natural Resources Defense Council · Potomac Conservancy · Powered by Facts · Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation · The Nature Conservancy in Virginia · Valley Conservation Council · Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center Foundation · Wildlands Network

TIGER SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY

Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance · Appalachian Trail Conservancy · Appalachian Voices · Audubon Naturalist Society · Audubon Society of Northern Virginia · Center for Progressive Reform · Chesapeake Climate Action Network · Clean Fairfax Council · Clean Virginia · Clean Virginia Waterways · Coalition for Smarter Growth · Edith J Carrier Arboretum at JMU · Friends of the Lower Appomattox River · Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah · Loudon Wildlife Conservancy · Mothers Out Front · New Virginia Majority · Northern Virginia Conservation Trust · Oceana · Potomac Riverkeeper Network · Preservation Virginia · Richmond Audubon Society · Roanoke River Basin Association · Scenic Virginia · Shenandoah National Park Trust · Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition · Sierra Club - Fall of the James Group · SouthWings · Spotswood Garden Club · Trust for Public Land · Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton · Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke · UVA Law School, Environmental and Regulatory Law Clinic · Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts · Virginia Capital Trail Foundation · Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action · Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative · Virginia Interfaith Power & Light · Virginia Living Museum · Virginia Native Plant Society · Virginia's United Land Trusts · Virginia Urban Forest Council · Virginians for High Speed Rail · Waterkeepers Chesapeake · Wetlands Watch

DOGWOOD

1Planet · Albemarle Garden Club · Alexandria Families for Safer Streets · Ashland Garden Club · Back Bay Restoration Foundation · Bike Walk RVA · Black Family Land Trust · Blue Ridge Garden Club · Boxwood Garden Club · Capital Region Land Conservancy · Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park · Climate Action Alliance of the Valley · Clinch Coalition · Conservation Park of Virginia, Inc. · Cville100 · Drive Electric RVA · EcoAction Arlington · Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions · Fauquier & Loudoun Garden Club · Friends of Accotink Creek · Friends of Dyke Marsh · Friends of the Rivers of Virginia · Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula · Garden Club of Norfolk · Garden Club of the Northern Neck · Goose Creek Association · The Greater Good Initiative · Groundwork RVA · Hands Across the Lake · Hunting Creek Garden Club · Leesburg Garden Club · Mattaponi & Pamunkey Rivers Association · Mill Mountain Garden Club · Nelson County Garden Club · Old Dominion Smallmouth Club · Partnership for Smarter Growth · Rail Solution · Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection · Rappahannock Valley Garden Club · Rivanna Conservation Alliance · Rivanna Garden Club · Rockbridge Area Conservation Council · Rockfish Valley Foundation · RVA Rapid Transit · Shenandoah Green · Sierra Club – Blue Ridge Group · Sierra Club – Chesapeake Bay Group · Sierra Club – Great Falls Group · Sierra Club – Mount Vernon Group · Sierra Club – New River Valley Group · Sierra Club – Piedmont Group · Sierra Club – Potomac Region Outings Group · Sierra Club – Rappahannock Group · Sierra Club – Roanoke Group · Sierra Club – Shenandoah Group · Sierra Club – York River Group · Southside ReLeaf · Surfrider Foundation – Virginia Chapter · Virginia Association for Biological Farming · Virginia Association for Environmental Education · Virginia Bicycling Federation · Virginia Chapter of the Wildlife Society · Virginia Composting Council · Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited · Virginia Green Travel Alliance · Virginia Society of Ornithology · Virginia Wilderness Committee · Washington Area Bicycle Association · Wild Virginia · Williamsburg Garden Club · Winchester-Clarke Garden Club





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