

# **Shenandoah Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council Goals and Objectives (2007 - 2012)**

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**The Shenandoah Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program is a partnership between a non-profit Council led by local citizens and community leaders and the US Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service.** The Shenandoah RC&D Area includes: the counties of Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren; and the cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester.

This region is very diverse and so are its resource concerns. The Shenandoah RC&D Area is experiencing tremendous growth and development pressures, while at the same time housing the state's top agricultural producing counties. There are major issues facing residents and affecting natural resources, such as the proposed widening of I-81, sprawl development fragmenting farm and forestland, poultry litter and dairy manure management, and a host of water quality and quantity concerns. To address these concerns, the Shenandoah RC&D Council works on projects in five key areas. **Those areas are:**

## **1 Promote managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space.**

- Objective 1:** Sponsor at least 3 information/awareness events throughout the Area related to growth and development.
- Objective 2:** Explore if there is an appropriate niche/role for the Shenandoah RC&D Council to play in affordable housing.
- Objective 3:** Identify an appropriate niche/role to play for RC&D Council concerning transportation and land use, roadways, mass transit, and related transportation opportunities.
- Objective 4:** Continue to implement community financing strategies for land and water protection.
- Objective 5:** Promote Low Impact Development (LID) and compatible economic development.
- Objective 6:** Support Virginia's initiative to preserve 400,000 additional acres of rural land by 2010.

## **2 Promote a sustainable agricultural sector.**

- Objective 1:** Sponsor at least 3 information/awareness events throughout the Area related to sustainable agriculture.
- Objective 2:** Provide support to counties implementing agricultural task force recommendations.
- Objective 3:** Promote alternative biomass-related energy sources including biodiesel and alternative fuels such as ethanol.
- Objective 4:** Increase direct marketing opportunities for farm fresh, local products to institutions, schools, etc., to increase farmers' bottom line.

### **3 Promote the conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on improvement and protection of water and air quality.**

- Objective 1:** Sponsor at least 3 information/awareness events throughout the Area related to conservation of natural resources.
- Objective 2:** Bring more awareness and attention to major conservation challenges in the Valley and actions individuals should take to improve.
- Objective 3:** Assess stormwater management efforts by counties and towns.
- Objective 4:** Promote more intensive water quality monitoring.

### **4 Promote community development and diverse rural economies.**

- Objective 1:** Sponsor at least 3 information/awareness events throughout the Area related to community development and diverse rural economies.
- Objective 2:** Help bring more environmentally compatible, high wage, high skills jobs to the Valley, in keeping with local comprehensive plan goals.
- Objective 3:** Promote agriculture-based tourism and alternative ag enterprises.

### **5 Strengthen Shenandoah RC&D Council operations.**

- Objective 1:** Increase Council member understanding and build sponsorship support for the Shenandoah RC&D.
- Objective 2:** Establish a Community Development Committee and elicit participation from community/county representatives.

**If you are interested in attending one of the bimonthly Council meetings, serving on a committee, putting forward a project proposal, or want more information, please contact:** Kathy Holm, Shenandoah RC&D Coordinator, Phone: (540) 248-3321, Fax: (540) 248-5502.  
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Or visit our website at [www.shenandoahrcd.org](http://www.shenandoahrcd.org).

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