



Civic engagement + Local self-reliance + Climate adaptation + Hazard mitigation + Community building

Why Resilience?

Climate change. Superstorms. Terrorism. Power outages. Chemical spills. Our communities face ever-worsening hazards. Most towns have emergency response and hazard mitigation plans, but it's impossible to anticipate everything. The best solution is to build *resilience* - the ability for communities to come together and solve whatever problems that come their way. That involves preparing for things like climate change and floods, but also building self-reliance and strong community ties.

What are CROs?

Community Resilience Organizations (CROs) are local teams that engage residents and town leaders in climate adaptation, disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation, while strengthening local collaboration and social cohesion. CROs break down community silos by bringing together a diverse mix of stakeholders involved in resilience and hazard mitigation: emergency management, conservation, social services, government and more. Through an annual Day for CROing and ongoing projects, teams engage youth and the broader community to collaborate on critical projects that will make the town stronger and safer, simultaneously celebrating local spirit and building community.

The CROs organization provides backbone support to local teams. We share resources, provide technical assistance and capacity building, help fundraise, and host an annual summit for town CROs teams across the state.

Vermont Pilot Program

In 2015, we are launching CROs with six Vermont pilot towns: Hartford, Jeffersonville, Londonderry, Putney, Richmond and Waterbury. Each town will receive capacity building and organizational support and will participate in an overnight summit to share ideas and start planning. New pilot towns will be selected annually, with selectboards appointing team members. Cost to participate is \$35/person for team members to attend statewide retreat.

How Do CROs Teams Work?

CROs teams plan events and work together on an annual cycle. Here's how it works:



Build & Assess (Winter)

Diverse teams form, complete resilience self-assessment and get to know each other



Plan & Engage (Spring-Summer/annual summit)

Teams learn about resilience; choose collaborative projects; engage the community; and plan a Day for CROing



Act, Learn & Celebrate (Fall)

Teams host Day for CROing with collaborative resilience projects, educational events, celebration (music, food, art, fun)



Renew & Reassess (Winter)

Teams celebrate their work, take a break, and reassess their communities to establish priorities for the next year

Collaborative Project Ideas

CROs action projects & events build relationships and collaboration. It takes a village to...

- **Do streambank plantings.** Watershed group identifies sites; road crew delivers compost and equipment; student volunteers complete plantings.
- **Install rain barrels.** Public works identifies stormwater management sites; local sustainability company provides plans & expertise; college sustainability class builds & installs barrels.
- **Create neighborhood emergency networks.** Planning Commission identifies vulnerable residents and town neighborhoods; Selectboard appoints neighborhood deputies; neighborhood volunteers go door to door to meet neighbors and identify emergency assets and needs.
- **Hold resilience workshops.** Library organizes workshops & discussion; businesses & residents offer courses on DIY climate adaptation and resilience topics.
- **Clear streams and culverts.** Road crews provide maps + priorities. Fire department provides trucks + hoses. Youth conservation crews clean trash and invasive plants.

Get Involved

Start CROing! Visit us on the web or follow us on Facebook to learn more about our next round of pilot towns, community resilience planning and resources, and opportunities to partner.