

OUR KEY PROGRAMS

Building Solutions

We will help you build effective solutions by selecting and designing the right process to meet your needs. Our experience covers the full range of processes - “supercharged” public meetings, strategic planning, complex conferences, design charrettes, workshops, and simple or complex collaborative problem-solving. We are as much at home facilitating a structured negotiation or a sensitive dialogue as we are leading a free-form “Open Space” idea-generating process.

IEN initiated Virginia Solutions in Fall 2004, a state-wide initiative for community collaboration and consensus building. Easy to understand and cost-effective, Virginia Solutions involves appointing a neutral convener and forming a stakeholder Solution Team, then develops an integrated solution strategy that is embodied in a shared Declaration of Cooperation.

Building Capacity

The Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute (VNRLI), founded in 1999, offers professional development for Virginia’s environmental leaders. With a reputation for excellence, the VNRLI is a partnership between IEN, Virginia Cooperative Extension at Virginia Tech, and the Virginia Department of Forestry.

In VNRLI, Virginia’s leaders explore complex environmental issues, learn from each other, develop leadership strategies, and build skills to help move communities beyond conflict to collaborative problem-solving. The growing network of VNRLI alumni is leading the Commonwealth to effective, sustainable solutions.



VNRLI field trip



IEN facilitates watershed planning

IEN also designs custom trainings in collaborative planning, negotiation, consensus-building, and conflict resolution. Contact us to learn how we can serve your needs.

Building Knowledge

IEN undertakes research to address your questions, using public involvement methods such as interviews, web-based surveys, focus groups, workshops, meetings and conferences.

As an example of a long-term research project, IEN co-founded the Community-Based Collaboratives Research Consortium (CBCRC) in 1999. The CBCRC website <www.cbrc.org> is an ongoing forum for sharing and learning from research concerning collaborative approaches to environmental management.

We also undertake short-term research projects. Examples over the years include research on the land application of biosolids, transportation, and coastal issues in Virginia.

OUR CLIENTS

Clients include civic groups, local, state and federal governments, non-profit environmental and land planning groups, developers, foundations, corporations, and universities. A list of clients can be found on the Institute’s web site at www.virginia.edu/ien.

PROCESS SERVICES

Collaborative Problem Solving

Facilitating multi-stakeholder groups to develop consensus for issues such as water quality or food security, utilizing such tools as policy roundtables, “Virginia Solutions,” advisory citizen task forces and steering committees.

Strategic Planning

Developing a vision, mission, goals, objectives and even a complete action plan to meet the needs of your community or organization.

Public Meetings & Workshops

Identifying citizen concerns, providing information and education, generating ideas and solutions for specific issues and problems, and utilizing tools for enhanced interaction such as shared meeting planning, small group discussion, surveys, the facilitation of Q & A sessions, and strategic planning.

Community Dialogues

Bringing communities together to discuss issues of importance, to build understanding and identify common ground.

Issue Scoping & Situation Assessment

Identifying issues, assessing the readiness of parties to come to the table, and exploring the needs for information, ground rules, logistical issues and funding.

Collaborative Planning

Planning for land use, water sources, brownfield redevelopment and other issues for sites, local governments and regions through collaboration among community stakeholder groups.



IEN facilitates a community watershed planning process

WHO WE ARE

The University of Virginia's Institute for Environmental Negotiation (IEN) was formed in 1980 by faculty from the School of Architecture's Department of Urban and Environmental Planning, to provide mediation and consensus building services concerning the natural and built environments. The Institute's senior staff have degrees and experience in mediation and consensus building, public involvement, urban and environmental planning, public policy, government, and natural resources management. Graduate research associates are also engaged in project work throughout the year, and are committed to the IEN mission.

OUR MISSION

IEN is committed to building a sustainable future for communities in Virginia and beyond. We accomplish this by:

- **Building Solutions:** Bringing people together to develop sustainable solutions.
- **Building Capacity:** Providing people with learning opportunities to develop as creative and collaborative leaders.
- **Building Knowledge:** Develop greater understanding of best collaborative processes.

OUR AREAS OF FOCUS

The Institute works on a variety of issues relating to our communities and the environment. A description of our experience with the issues below can also be found on our website.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

CONTAMINATED SITE RE-USE

TRANSPORTATION

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

LAND & OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION

PUBLIC HEALTH

WASTE

LAND USE

WATER SUPPLY & QUALITY

AIR QUALITY

AGRICULTURE & FOOD ISSUES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

COASTAL ENHANCEMENT

TRIBAL ISSUES

HOW WE CAN ASSIST YOU

IEN works with you to identify your goals, develop the best ways of achieving those goals and stay within your budget and timeframe. We are recognized for the high level of satisfaction and service provided to our clients.

Different processes are used to accomplish different purposes. To inform or take the pulse of your public, an enhanced public meeting may be appropriate. To identify a range of options, an enhanced workshop may be the right approach. To develop goals, objectives and actions, a strategic planning effort could be helpful. To formulate specific recommendations, we will help you select from a menu of collaborative problem-solving processes.

IEN also offers support to you at the level you desire. We can provide "turn-key" services - covering the process design, logistics, facilitation, and final reporting. Or we can facilitate an event that you will organize on your own. If you have a fixed budget, we work to find creative solutions to accomplish your goals within your budget.

Working with IEN means you benefit from experience, knowledge, and integrity. We keep our promises and are accomplished in the art of the possible. Call us: we would be privileged to hear from you!



CONTACT US

www.virginia.edu/ien

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