

Case Example: Virginia Water Resources Planning

During the fall of 2002, Virginia initiated a long-term state water resources planning process to ensure adequate "water supply" for all of its statutorily protected beneficial uses—human consumption, fish and wildlife habitat, waste assimilation, recreation, and navigation. The process began with the creation of a broad-based stakeholder committee of 33 members representing a broad cross section of water users, including power generation, manufacturers, public and private water suppliers, fish and wildlife interests, environmental organizations, and recreational boaters. Over a three year period, these stakeholders developed a set of water supply planning principles that ultimately became legislation, local and regional planning criteria, and a modeling framework for integrating state and local planning products into a state water resources plan.

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