



Welcome to the Virginia Association of Environmental Professionals!

Virginia is home to a significant number of Environmental Professionals that promote well-informed and scientifically sound decision-making. This community includes public and private sector professionals across countless specialties and professions who are critical in the furtherance of our understanding of the environmental, social, and economic impacts of human activities in our society.

The richness and diversity of Virginia's environmental practice provides an opportunity to further advance the community of Environmental Professionals across the Commonwealth by providing a forum where members can collaborate, share information across industry, government, and academia, provide a network of professional contacts, and mentor new environmental professionals as they enter the field.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to be an interdisciplinary organization dedicated to developing the highest standards of proficiency in the environmental profession.

Our goals are:

- Be a leading source of unbiased information on environmental practices in Virginia;
- Support the advancement of environmental professions and our individual members in their careers; and
- Foster a collaborative and mutually beneficial relationship between the private sector, government, non-profit, and academia.

Organizational Vision

Our goal is to develop a nonpartisan, non-profit peer group that offers Environmental Professionals throughout the Commonwealth a forum and network focused on issues affecting Virginia. The organization will:

- Encourage the exchange of information between the public and private sector through recurring events;
- Understand the unique environmental considerations affecting the diverse environments of Virginia;
- Stay attuned to changes in science, law, practice, and policy;
- Provide a venue for professionals to network and seek new opportunities; and
- Be available to help mentor individuals new to the environmental professional community.

Organizational Structure

The Virginia Association of Environmental Professionals (VAEP) will be a subchapter of the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP). The VAEP will be comprised of dues-paying members. Dues will be used to host live and virtual events, pay for administrative and logistical costs for organizational activities, and to maintain good-standing with the national organization and State requirements.



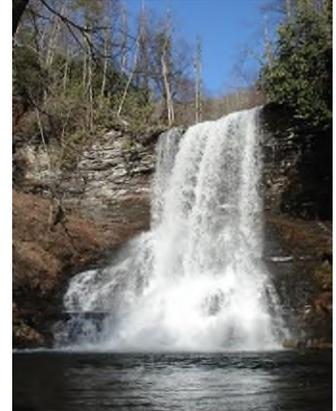
Blue Ridge Mountains

The VAEP will be run by a Board of Directors elected by members of VAEP in good standing and for finite terms. Its day-to-day activities will be managed by officers, including a President, Secretary, and Treasurer. There will be several categories of membership.

Implementing the Vision

To implement this vision, the organization will:

- Organize periodic meetings and events, both virtual and live (where appropriate and safe), to conduct the organization's business in a transparent manner;
- Invite speakers to meetings and events who can discuss topical matters of interest to Environmental Professionals, such as regulators who can discuss changes in regulation or policy, attorneys who can discuss changes in law, and other subject matter experts who can present on the latest science and policy;
- Encourage networking at formal and informal events where members can engage and identify opportunities for career growth and businesses development;
- Maintain a referral database of members and their qualifications so organizations and entities who need assistance can more quickly identify Environmental Professionals best suited for their needs;
- Develop a community that welcomes and mentors individuals newly beginning their environmental careers; and
- Serve as a conduit for the distribution of new information across the membership so best practices and the latest information can be quickly disseminated to the members.



Blacksburg



Virginia Beach

Next Steps

In the coming months, we will host informational meetings to help further articulate the vision of the organization, obtain feedback, and gauge interest. Assuming there is sufficient interest in membership, we will file an application to establish a Chapter under the NAEP, prepare the necessary documents to form the VAEP as a nonstock & nonprofit Virginia entity, and invite individuals to join.

If interested in attending an interest meeting to learn more or becoming a member of the VAEP please contact:

- Joe Romero, Vandeventer Black, LLP, (757) 446-8511, jromero@vanblacklaw.com
- SunTemple Helgren, AECOM, (757) 434-3945, temple72@aol.com
- Cindy Shurling, VHB, Inc., (336) 803-2184, cshurling@vhb.com
- Ann Marie Gathright, Environmental Standards, Inc., (434) 906.1097, amgathright@envstd.com

We want to acknowledge the following inaugural sponsors
