

Rhode Island Advanced Sustainability Part 2: Building on Strategies & Outcomes

Selected Strategies from Participants

What is something specific (someone else might be able to replicate) that has helped lead to success in a community?

Summary: *Activities include: To attend and create networking opportunities with community stakeholders/partners to share data. This is sharing not only the RISS data, but also including qualitative data to provide context. Getting a member of the press to champion prevention has contributed to better understanding and sustainability.*

- *Holding grant meetings to build coalition involvement, networking amongst current partners and letting them know support is available for other like-minded organizations.*
- *Asked someone in the press to sit down and go over the community assessment data with them and let them ask questions, in order to get them to champion your cause. Sharing Data, but Never without the focus group, key informant and community data (for context). Not just putting the focus on the RISS which takes responsibility off the community as a whole.*
- *Sharing RI Student Survey data results with superintendents and school committees. We are working with DOH and RIDE to develop communication strategy to share student survey data overall. We will be developing general data products that can be shared with the press and the ability to customize by regionals*
- *Sharing data with Town Councils*

What challenges have you encountered in sustainability planning?

1. *Support & Communication: (e.g. Getting support from community members... Folks seem overwhelmed with stressful schedules and prioritizing prevention is a challenge for families. Overall engagement of parents – communicating with or to attend educational opportunities. We email with limited success, FB, etc...)*

Successes/solutions to this challenge:

- Have parents on the coalition in leadership roles
- Having key leaders support the work (Superintendents, Police, etc.)
- Having them either attend events/meetings and share our messages through school and police channels.
- Go to where they are such as Open Houses or parent teacher conferences, and school events. Go to public events like Washington County Fair
- 'Bring a Friend' events to PTA/PTSA/PTO meetings can be helpful. Reaching out and asking people share their talents can be a way to engage parents who may otherwise be on the sidelines.
- Persistence and offering help/resources to parents and respecting them
- Our mandatory Substance Use and Student Wellness Policies for parents and students

2. *Keeping the momentum and interest for the long haul.*

Successes/solutions to this challenge:

- creating a sense of urgency
- Utilization of work groups or subcommittees to DO the work...provides engagement and ownership of the work...and feelings of success

- Remind them of their work that brought the attention to issues, implementation, and do that often- celebrate the little and big progress
- Listen to what students say has made a difference

What are your successes with your partners?

Summary: *The greatest successes come from sharing community assessment data and focus group information, and monitoring and communication of progress with the community.*

- Checking in with coalition members on our progress towards goals and determining which to continue, and which need different partners to achieve
- Knowing your community assessment data and the focus group information and presenting that information to very public venue you can get it in front of to make the point that the issues are community issues, not just the school or police but the town and gain ownership by that.
- Looking at progress annually and requesting TA when needed

How do you see using these worksheets/tools from the Prevention SustainAbilities course in your community process?

Summary: *Use the sustainability tools presented (i.e., Process Review Tool; Intervention Review Tool, and Sustainability Action Plan) with coalitions to review progress, see what efforts might be sustainable, determine which groups/programs could be responsible for sustaining efforts, as well as for spreading the word about funding availability to garner more coalition involvement.*

- *We would use these tools as a coalition to review the progress and see what programs/policies/efforts might be sustainable. Assess which programs other groups might take responsibility for*
- *Bringing more coalitions to the table. Meeting with municipalities in a larger setting*
- *Some organizations have taken over programs that we started in the past.*
- *Utilization of a retreat format. We will be doing another strategic planning retreat first followed by a sustainability retreat. We put out a survey asking when folks want to meet, so that they have buy-in to the “when”. Giving them ownership to the “when” and the “how”. These were structured in 4 hour sessions and had 100% attendance.*
- *Spreading the word in regards to funding availability to garner more coalition involvement. In regards to municipalities meeting on a larger scale to share information.*

What support would be helpful in continuing this discussion?

Summary: *Hosting peer-sharing opportunities such as meeting (statewide) monthly or quarterly would help to strengthen their ability to sustain efforts. These meetings could include coalitions sharing their strategies support or address successes and challenges sustaining outcomes. Regional coalitions could alternate hosting these meetings.*

- *To hear from a coalition who has successfully sustained work after a big grant like the DFC, to find out how did they keep on staff, and how they you decide which things to let go of*
- *The ability for coalitions from around the state to have conversations with each other, share ideas/information and brainstorm – it’s super helpful.. Ideally meeting statewide once a month or quarterly to share (having regional coalitions host...rotate)*
- *We will be doing a forum on working with the a faith communities for prevention staff around the state in late October in Newport County. (engaging faith community as partners as well as hearing what faith community doing to support prevention)*
- *I think getting all together and focusing on one topic (what people ARE doing and what could we be doing) might be useful.*