

# Press Release

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## NADO Research Foundation Highlights Post-Irene Efforts of Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission

(Woodstock, VT)— The National Association of Development Organizations' (NADO) Research Foundation developed a series of case studies to highlight the efforts of regional development organizations in the wake of natural disasters from around the country. The case studies demonstrate how regions have effectively used federal funding to address the impacts of natural disasters, become more resilient to future events, and increase economic competitiveness and quality of life.

NADO chose to feature Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) in this series on the grounds that amidst the chaos brought by Irene, TRORC became a central figure in the immediate aftermath through the coordination of recovery efforts regionally, and in the long-term recovery as a key partner in the state-wide property buyout program. Having dealt with a number of smaller flood events, TRORC was already providing technical assistance and training services on disaster preparedness and recovery.

TRORC's ability to play such a critical role in the recovery from Irene was the result of groundwork staff had laid long before Irene struck. "Once Irene hit," Kevin Geiger, senior planner with TRORC recalls, "we ceased all operations except for emergency response for six weeks after Irene."

In addition to stressing the importance of preparedness, Irene also strengthened TRORC's relationships with partners in local, state and federal government, as well as with local residents and non-profits. Irene also served to build TRORC's internal capacity on disaster recovery and resilience issues and increased their understanding of state and federal disaster policies and programs.

"We had good relationships with our communities before Irene, and that was evident from the number of calls we received, says Peter Gregory, executive director of TRORC, "We knew we were being looked at as someone who could help them because we had a strong track record of doing just that."

A link to the series of case studies can be found at <http://www.nado.org/lessons-from-the-storm-case-studies-on-economic-recovery-and-resilience/>.

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