



# Georgetown County Government

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## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Georgetown RISE project receives global recognition

GEORGETOWN COUNTY – The United Nations Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development in Georgetown – better known as Georgetown RISE – has been selected from more than 175 other RCEs around the world for a prestigious international award. This award featured a partnership with the Georgetown County Public Services Department and its director, Ray C. Funnye; local community leader and sustainable organization consultant Peg Howell; Pamela Martin, Ph.D., professor of politics and executive director of RCE Sustainable Development at Coastal Carolina University; and Maeve Snyder of the National Estuarine Research Reserve.

This team trained the management of each of the Public Services Department’s six divisions in sustainability and resilience from May 2019 through January 2020. Through a lens of systems-level organization, the team created integrated goals and objectives that are now institutionalized in the department and tracked for progress. The title of the award-winning project is “Sustainable Organization Training: Public Services Leadership in Georgetown County.”

“The training not only empowered our division leaders,” said Funnye, “but unified them in their vision for Georgetown County as a whole. This award is almost like a ‘seal of approval’ for our continued work on sustainability and resilience, which we truly appreciate.”

“Typically, cities receive funding by their national governments to do this sort of training,” added Pamela Martin, “but RCE Georgetown has something just as valuable—dedication, professionalism and commitment to the goals of creating a sustainable and resilient community.”

In ordinary times, the team would be flown to Tokyo to receive this award, but in the current pandemic environment, the award was simply mailed. Nonetheless, the 2020 RCE Award for Outstanding Flagship Project is deserving of public recognition, as its positive results in sustainability and resilience will be implemented throughout the county in the coming years.

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