

2021 Act On Climate

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Priscilla De La Cruz
RI Director
Environment Council of RI, President

Reduce emissions to net zero by 2050

The 2021 **Act on Climate** would make RI's carbon emissions targets mandatory, economy-wide, and in line with the latest science.

*Statistic and graphic from Rhode Island DEM Greenhouse Gas Inventory website



Transportation
35.7%



Electricity
Consumption
25.7%



Residential
Heating
16.7%



Industry
10.3%



Commercial
Heating
7.8%



Waste
1.8%



Natural Gas
Distribution
1.4%



Agriculture
<1%

Act On Climate (S0078-subA and H5445-subA)

Updates the existing 2014 Resilient RI Act in several necessary ways:

Science: Updates our climate targets in accordance with the latest science regarding what is needed to avert climate disaster. It creates achievable targets every ten years, with a 45% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030; an 80% reduction by 2040; and a requirement of net-zero emissions by 2050.

Transparency: Concrete plans to meet the emission reductions targets will be issued by the **Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4)** every five years. There will be public comment on the plans, and the plans will address the input provided to **the EC4 by its advisory bodies.**

There will be public metrics and a dashboard, updated at least annually, to track emissions reductions and the sources of energy Rhode Island is using.

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The background of the slide is a faded, light-colored image of the Wisconsin State Capitol building, showing its iconic dome and classical architectural details.

Equity: Plans will include an equitable transition for environmental justice populations and a process for environmental justice communities to provide input on the plans.

Plans will identify support for workers in the transition as well as the development of programs to recruit, train, and retain women, people of color, Indigenous people, veterans, formerly incarcerated people, and people living with disabilities in jobs related to a clean energy economy.

Accountability: Makes the state's greenhouse gas emissions reductions legally binding and holds the state government accountable to comply with meeting state climate targets, with an accountability provision.

Summary of Expanded Responsibilities

- Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) issues concrete plans every five years starting no later than December 31, 2025.
 - Plans will include public comment and a process for environmental justice communities and frontline workers to provide input on the plans
 - **EC4 Advisory Boards** provide annual input that will be addressed in writing by the EC4 in the plans
 - Public metrics and an online public dashboard will be updated at least annually

Thank you! Discussion.

Priscilla De La Cruz

Priscilla@GreenEnergyConsumers.org