

Act on Climate Implementation

Recommendations for an Inclusive Stakeholder Climate Action Plan

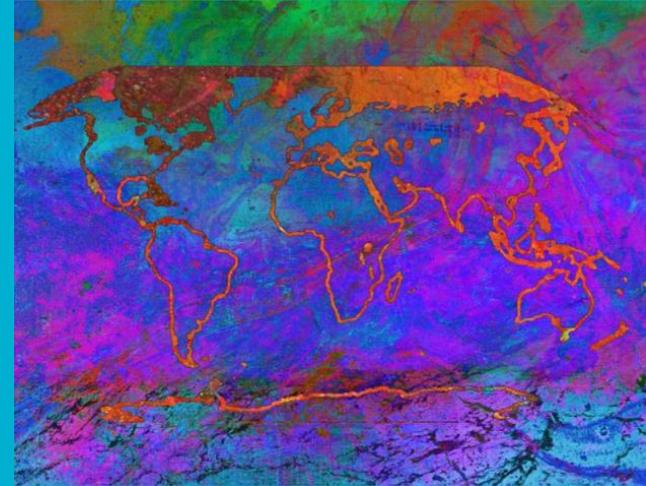
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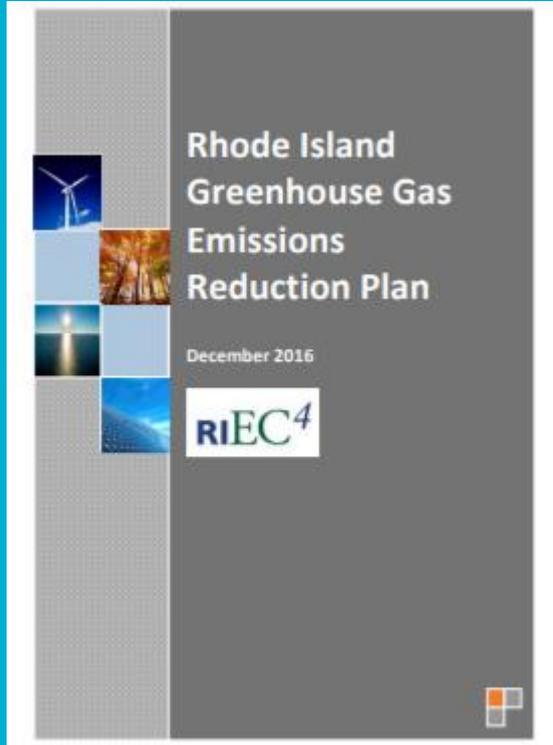
Latest Climate News

Key Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [Report](#) Findings:

- Crisis is unfolding more rapidly than we originally anticipated
- Climate Change is widespread and intensifying
 - *i.e. faster warming, intense rainfall and flooding, urban heat islands, extreme ocean changes*
- Governments need to act quickly to avoid the worst impacts
- Immediate, strong and sustained large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions would limit climate change
- Some alterations to our climate are irreversible
 - *i.e. sea level rise and severe coastal flooding*



2021 Act on Climate Requirements



- Science-based and mandatory economy-wide GHG reduction targets
- State shall update the [2016 RI Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan](#) by December 31, 2022 and submit it to the Governor and General Assembly
- EC4 issues concrete Strategic Implementation Plans every 5 years starting no later than December 31, 2025--
 - Plans will include public comment and process for environmental justice communities and frontline workers to provide input on plans
 - EC4 Advisory Boards provide annual input to the EC4; EC4 addresses input in writing
- Public metrics and an online public dashboard to be updated at least annually

Recommendations for Successful Implementation

Key Provisions from the coalition's [memo](#):

- 1) Prioritizing justice and equity and a robust stakeholder process;
- 2) Providing the necessary State staff resources to enable success;
- 3) Establishing a clear timeline to immediately *update the 2016 RI GHG Reduction Plan by December 2022 and develop a Strategic Implementation Plan for the December 2025 Plan* , and;
- 4) Implementing several critical actions immediately.

Provide Necessary Staffing

- Recommend at least 4 full-time employees (FTEs) are hired or reassigned to work on Act on Climate implementation (with expertise in specific areas)
 - FTEs should provide capacity to the EC4
 - FTEs will need a Director-level position who reports directly to the Governor and chief of staff
- Short-term recommendation to accelerate implementation work: DOA Director reassigns staff to work on special projects
- State staff over consultants to maximize an actional the revised plan due December 2022 and meeting the 2030 mandated target--45% reduction of GHG
- Leverage resources beyond state agency staffing, includes the EC4 Advisory Board and STAB

Plan for An Inclusive Stakeholder Process

- Prioritize justice and equity and public participation by following best practices and proven examples:
 - Just Providence Framework used to develop Providence's Climate Justice Plan
 - Massachusetts' Environmental Justice (EJ) Director, within the Executive Office of Energy and Environment Affairs, to oversee the formation of compensated EJ advisory bodies
 - RI Coastal Resources Management Council's comprehensive stakeholder input in their Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) process
- Should include hiring environmental justice-focused staff or consultants and compensate community members for their expertise

Establish a Timeline for an Inclusive Process

Immediate: Appoint a chair of the EC4 Science & Technical Advisory Board (STAB) so the body can reconvene and request advisory boards to provide input on the planning process and necessary stakeholder engagement process

As soon as possible (by September/ Labor Day):

- A kick-off meeting with stakeholders included to discuss the process and set a timeline
- A draft document released (with opportunity for public comment) that outlines:
 - Timeline for Strategic Implementation Plan development and opportunities for public comment
 - A plan for stakeholder engagement in the planning process, including a section on engagement of frontline and EJ communities
 - Assignments of staff to lead the effort
 - An overview of where the state does not have the capacity
 - A commitment and identification of funding for hiring other staff to fill capacity needs

Study Resources are Ample

[Providence Climate Justice Plan](#)

[Long-Range Transportation Plan](#)

[Clean Transportation and Mobility Innovation Plan](#)

[ETHOS Project Binder](#)

[Energy Efficiency Market Potential Study](#)

[Next Generation Energy Efficiency](#)

[Heating Sector Transformation Report](#)

[Renewable Thermal Market Development Study](#)

[Clean Heating Pathways](#)

[Road to 100% Renewable Electricity by 2030](#)

[Power Sector Transformation Report](#)

[State Energy Plan](#)

[The Declining Role of Natural Gas Power](#)

[Lead by Example Initiative Report](#)

[Value of Forests Report](#)

[Carbon Pricing Study](#)

[Energy Vision 2030 \(Accelerated Scenario\)](#)

[Deeper Decarbonization in the Ocean State](#)

[Clean Energy Jobs Report](#)

[Resilient Rhody](#)

[State Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)

[IPCC Regional Fact Sheet](#)

And many more...

A Sample of Initial Policy Directions

Studies repeatedly conclude that Addressing Climate Change and Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels will benefit RI's **Economy**:

- Adopting Renewable Thermal Targets: "RI's fossil-based thermal energy industry is a major contributor to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the state--accounting for approximately 35% of the state's GHG emissions. In addition, because RI has no in-state natural gas or petroleum resources, a large portion of the approximately \$1.1 billion in annual expenditure on heating fuels flows directly out of the state." (*Renewable Thermal Market Development Strategy*, 2017)
- Investing in Clean Energy Workforce Development: "Led by substantial increases in energy efficiency jobs, the clean energy sector has continuously shown above-average employment growth, creating sustainable-wage employment opportunities for the state's residents." (*RI Clean Energy Industry Report*, 2020)
- Expanding Energy Storage Technology: "Energy storage technology and demand management also provide important resilience and economic development co-benefits. Locally deployed energy storage, such as battery backup systems in Rhode Island homes and businesses can support shelter-in-place during extreme weather events and reduce costly business interruptions during outages. Deployment of in-state energy storage resources also supports local economic development and employment." (*The Road to 100% Renewable Electricity*, 2020)
- Funding Small Business and Trades: "Tradesmen and small business owners can reap significant benefits from converting to electric vehicles--all while providing benefits to their communities as well..." Overall, analyses show that medium-duty vehicles can save operators thousands of dollars each year: in one assessment, the average operator is projected to save more than \$40,000 in avoided fuel costs and nearly \$12,000 in avoided maintenance costs over a 10-year vehicle life." (*ETHOS Project Binder*, 2021).

Calling for Additional Ideas

The Climate Crisis is accelerating and Rhode Island has committed to taking action through the Act on Climate law.

Extensive studies produced by Rhode Island, other states, as well as energy and environmental experts provide a starting point for 2022 climate plan update.

But we want everyone to offer up solutions to the climate crisis.

Want to Help?

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