GREEN AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS
A Project of Climate Jobs RI

About
Climate Jobs RI is a broad and growing coalition of labor unions, environmental advocates, and community organizations that came together in early 2021 with the shared vision for a Just Transition to a Green Economy in Rhode Island.

Principals
1. Establish emissions limits leading to economy-wide 100% net-zero emissions by 2050
2. Establish state-wide, cost-effective investments in community resiliency
3. Maximize family-sustaining job growth
4. Prioritize solutions developed by underserved communities

The Coalition:
Campaign Goals

1. Overhaul the state's outdated schools to provide a safe, healthy, and COVID-resistant environment for all teachers, students, and staff
2. Address the climate change crisis and reduce air pollution by making all school buildings zero-carbon
3. Creating thousands of good paying, union jobs that uplift local communities
4. Save districts $ by slashing school energy use
5. Teach students about the climate crisis and how they can pursue union jobs building the clean energy economy

Green and Healthy Schools
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311 public schools
143,557 students
13,950 educators
school community

1 in 6 Americans step foot in public school buildings everyday

State of RI Public Schools

56
Years Old Average Age of School Buildings

50,500
Total Building Deficiencies

$2.2B
Estimated Costs of Building Deficiencies

Source: School Building Authority State of Rhode Island Schoolhouses
September 2017 Report

Building Deficiencies:
- Mold and Water Damage
- Leaky Deteriorating rooftops
- Crumbling Ceilings
- Poor Ventilation
- Rotted Pipes
- Lead Service Lines
- Antiquated Heating and Air Conditioning Systems
- Outdated Electrical Grids
Areas with the poorest conditions & highest building deficiencies:

- Providence
- Pawtucket
- Woonsocket
- North Providence
- Central Falls
- Warwick

Source: School Building Authority State of Rhode Island Schoolhouses
September 2017 Report

**THE PROBLEM**

**PHYSICAL RISKS**
Overcrowding and building deficiencies lead to unnecessary physical risks

**HEALTH HAZARDS**
School building conditions affect student health, thinking, and performance

**RACIAL AND ECONOMIC INJUSTICE**
Decades of disinvestment in black and brown communities and low income communities translate into poor conditions and high building deficiencies

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**
Energy use from buildings represents a significant share of the state's dependence on fossil fuels
Physical Risks

Overcrowding and building deficiencies lead to unnecessary physical risks

54% of Rhode Island's traditional schools can accommodate only 350 students or less, despite an average enrollment of 488 in 2016-17

- Crumbling Ceilings
- Leaky Roofs

Source: School Building Authority of Rhode Island Schoolhouses September 2017 Report

Health Hazards

Poor facility conditions negatively affect student health, thinking, and performance

Lighting & Views

Dust, Pests, Mold & Moisture

Water Quality

Lead Exposure
Health Hazards
continued

Ventilation & Indoor Air Quality

Unhealthy CO₂ levels impact cognitive performance and decision making

Racial and Economic Impact

Often school buildings in the worst condition exist in low-income communities of color

9th
Highest Asthma Rate
In the Nation

10.9%
Percentage of RI Children with Asthma

OVER 70%
Pediatric asthma ER visits are children on Medicaid

In Providence, 24 schools are within 1000 ft of a major highway

RI asthma emergency department rates (per 1000):
1. Providence: 13.7
2. Central Falls: 11.5
3. Newport: 10.8
4. Woonsocket: 10.7
5. Pawtucket: 9.7

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, School Building Authority State of Rhode Island Schoolhouses September 2017 Report

Total CO2 from Schools
Statewide: Estimate of 105,913 Metric Tons of CO2 Equivalent per year

12,754
Homes' energy use for one year

Environmental Impact

Energy use from buildings represents a significant share of the state's dependence on fossil fuels

Total Energy Costs:
$15.5-17.4 Million spent annually on electricity
$8.2-10.7 Million spent annually on natural gas
$4.3-7.1 Million spend annually on No. 2 Fuel Oil

OUR SOLUTION

ALL RHODE ISLAND K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS MODERNIZED AND DECARBONIZED BY 2030

- SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND
  - ZERO CARBON INCENTIVES
  - STRONG LABOR STANDARDS
  - ENSURING SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS ARE UPDATED TO INCLUDE THE NEWEST CLIMATE BUILDING STANDARDS (NECHPS 4.0)
  - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

- HVAC repair or replacement
- Lead pipe removal
- Window and door replacement
- Building envelope improvements
- Roof repair or replacement
- Solar installation
- Energy efficiency upgrades
- Lighting upgrades
- Lead, mold, and asbestos abatement
- Fire safety upgrades
- Electrical upgrades
- Solar power systems
- Plumbing repairs
- Insulations
- and MANY MORE

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Building Assessments
- Energy Audits
- Feasibility studies
  - Solar
  - Geothermal
  - Wind
- Job Training for School Staff
THE OPPORTUNITY

JOB CREATION
Transitioning all K-12 public schools in RI to net-zero would create 11,209 direct jobs over 9 years

COST SAVINGS
If all energy demand is fully met by on-site renewable energy school districts can save approximately $35.2 M

RACIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY
Our first investments need to be prioritized into communities of color and low-income communities, where we've seen decades of disinvestment

EMISSIONS REDUCTION
We have the opportunity to slash carbon emissions by 105,913 metric Tons of CO2-eq

TYPES OF JOBS

Solar Technicians
Carpenters
Engineers
Steamfitters
Roofers
Insulators
Operating Engineers
Architects
Structural Iron and Steel Workers

Electricians
Painters
Laborers
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Welders
Sheetmetal Workers
HVAC Technicians
Glaziers
Success Stories

East Providence High School

Batesville, AR
1,500 Solar Panels

JOIN OUR MOVEMENT TO MAKE SCHOOLS AND THE PLANET, HEALTHIER AND SAFER FOR ALL

Add your name to the pledge

Host a Virtual Coffee Hour or Dinner Party

Contact Us: erica@climatejobsri.org

TAKE ACTION!

climategoalsri.org