MEMORANDUM

TO: EC4 ADVISORY BOARD

FROM: EC4 CHAIR TERRENCE GRAY AND VICE CHAIR NICHOLAS UCCI

SUBJECT: DEVELOPING A CLIMATE DASHBOARD

DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2021

The 2021 Act on Climate requires the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) to "foster public transparency by developing public metrics and an online public dashboard that shall track both emissions reductions and sources of energy consumed by the state" (RIGL 42-6.2-3.13).

The EC4 is requesting advice and guidance from the Advisory Board to develop a draft outline of a climate dashboard by October 31, 2022.

Guiding Principles

To assist with this effort, we propose the Advisory Board consider the following guiding principles:

1. **Meet the letter of the law**: The dashboard must include, at minimum, an annual update on emissions reductions and an annual update on sources of energy consumed by the state.
2. **Maximize transparency**: The dashboard should link readers to data sources, explanations, and additional notes, and use terminology that is accessible by the general public and non-experts.
3. **Consider facets of climate change beyond emissions**: The dashboard should include additional metrics of interest (quantitative and/or qualitative), especially related to equity, economy, health, and resilience.
4. **Build on best practices**: Leverage best practices and lessons learned from local, state, and nation-level dashboards.
5. **Balance information with administration**: Consider potential administrative burdens and how potential near-term data sources and data collection processes may need to evolve.
6. **Consider the dashboard a living document.** The dashboard will warrant review and adjustment over time as new science and policies are developed.

Existing Efforts

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management currently maintains a climate dashboard available online: http://climatechange.ri.gov/climatesnapshot/. A number of EC4 member agencies feed information and data into this existing dashboard. This dashboard highlights seven key metrics, alongside explanations of why each metric matters. The dashboard is updated quarterly (approximately) and requires about 40 staff-hours each year.

In lieu of revising the existing dashboard, we ask that the Advisory Board consider this request as a carte blanche. First, identify the key metrics to represent on an ideal dashboard, and then revise according to the guiding principles above.

Next Steps

The Advisory Board should consult with experts and stakeholders as it finds appropriate in order to develop the climate dashboard. Such experts and stakeholders may include: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Air Resources and other state agencies, community groups and neighborhood associations, climate scientists, institutions of higher education, business and industry representatives, and subject matter experts, among others.

The EC4 requests the Advisory Board adhere to the following schedule of interim deliverables which we have linked to upcoming Council meetings throughout 2022:

EC4 Meeting	Advisory Board Deliverable	EC4 Response
April 7	Presentation on best practices, including examples from across states and cities	Guidance on categories of metrics to include and on presentation/formatting
June 23	Presentation on specific proposed metrics and data sources or data needs	Guidance on specific metrics
September 22	Draft climate dashboard	Guidance on refinement
November 3	Final climate dashboard and memo on recommendations for future work	Vote to adopt climate dashboard – followed by instructions to work with IT to make the dashboard live and publicly accessible by the end of year

Thank you for all of your work and we look forward to collaborating with you on this important project. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us should you have additional questions.