

PEOPLE-CENTERED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

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MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE CLIMATE
CHANGE COORDINATING COUNCIL



ABOUT CLIMATE JOBS RHODE ISLAND



Climate Jobs Rhode Island is a coalition of more than 30 labor unions, environmental groups, and community organizations committed to working together to make Rhode Island a national leader in the development of a 21st century economy that expands access to family-sustaining clean energy jobs for impacted and frontline communities through a Just Transition.

GROUNDING PRINCIPLES

Economy-wide net zero emissions by 2050



Protect against the effects of climate change and equitably share costs, benefits, and risks



Maximize family-sustaining job growth



Prioritize solutions developed by frontline communities

Shared Learning Opportunities

To maximize effectiveness, the members of Climate Jobs Rhode Island commit to working together to deepen our understanding of each other's positions, goals, and mission.

Coalition members will establish opportunities for each other to learn about each other's values, operational philosophies, and priorities.



OTHER CRITICAL RESOURCES

- Jemez Principles
- Climate Justice Alliance
- Just Providence Framework



WHAT THIS MEANS IN PRACTICE

One example from a planning perspective:

- (1) Involving frontline communities at our decision-making tables.
- (2) Lifting families out of poverty by expanding access to family-sustaining jobs through climate action.
- (3) Ensuring we invest in infrastructure that fosters healthy communities while mitigating climate change and its impacts.
- (4) Integrating principles of universal design so that everyone in our communities can access public assets.



PREVIOUS HIGHLIGHTS

- January 2022 Report:
 - *Building a Just Transition for a Resilient Future*
 - bit.ly/cjri-report
- Lunch & Learns
 - Davis Bacon
 - Apprenticeship & the Trades
 - Renewable Energy Standard
 - Transportation & Climate Initiative
- School Construction Tours

Legislation

- 2021 Act on Climate
- 100% Renewable Energy Standard
- Labor Standards in Renewable Energy
- 2022 OSW Procurement
- Universal Fare-Free RIPTA (R-Line pilot)
- Lead pipe replacements



2023 HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

- Workforce Transition
- Green & Healthy Schools
- Tracking Federal Funding



WORKFORCE TRANSITION

Three Pillars

1. Identify the work that needs to happen to decarbonize the economy.
2. Identify the work that will be phased out.
3. Identify family-sustaining pathways to these new jobs for frontline communities and impacted workers.

Activities

- Identifying the trades and skills involved in decarbonization work.
- Identifying existing apprenticeship programs for these skills
- Weaving this scope into policy and programs
- Where are the gaps?
- DLT Green Energy Workforce Advisory Committee



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT: WORKFORCE TRANSITION

Every decarbonization policy & program has jobs implications.

In order to transition to a resilient, equitable, net zero economy, we need to make sure that we plan this transition through the lens of lifting people out of poverty and keeping people out of poverty.

As agencies examine potential decarbonization programs and policies, keep in mind:

- 1. What jobs will be impacted?**
- 2. What are the needed skills and trades?**
- 3. How do we ensure equitable pathways for people to attain these skills?**
- 4. How do we ensure that this work will involve good wages & benefits?**

§ 42-6.2-2

“(vi) The plan shall identify support for workers during this equitable transition to address inequity in the state by creating quality and family-sustaining clean energy jobs that pay wages and benefits consistent with or that exceed area wage and labor standards. The plan shall provide for the development of programs that directly recruit, train, and retain those underrepresented in the workforce, including women, people of color, indigenous people, veterans, formerly incarcerated people, and people living with disabilities.”

CJRI can provide support & technical assistance. Examples include:

- 2025 plan
- Identifying workforce pathways for decarbonization programs & policies
- PUC’s Beyond Gas docket
- Supporting federal funding applications



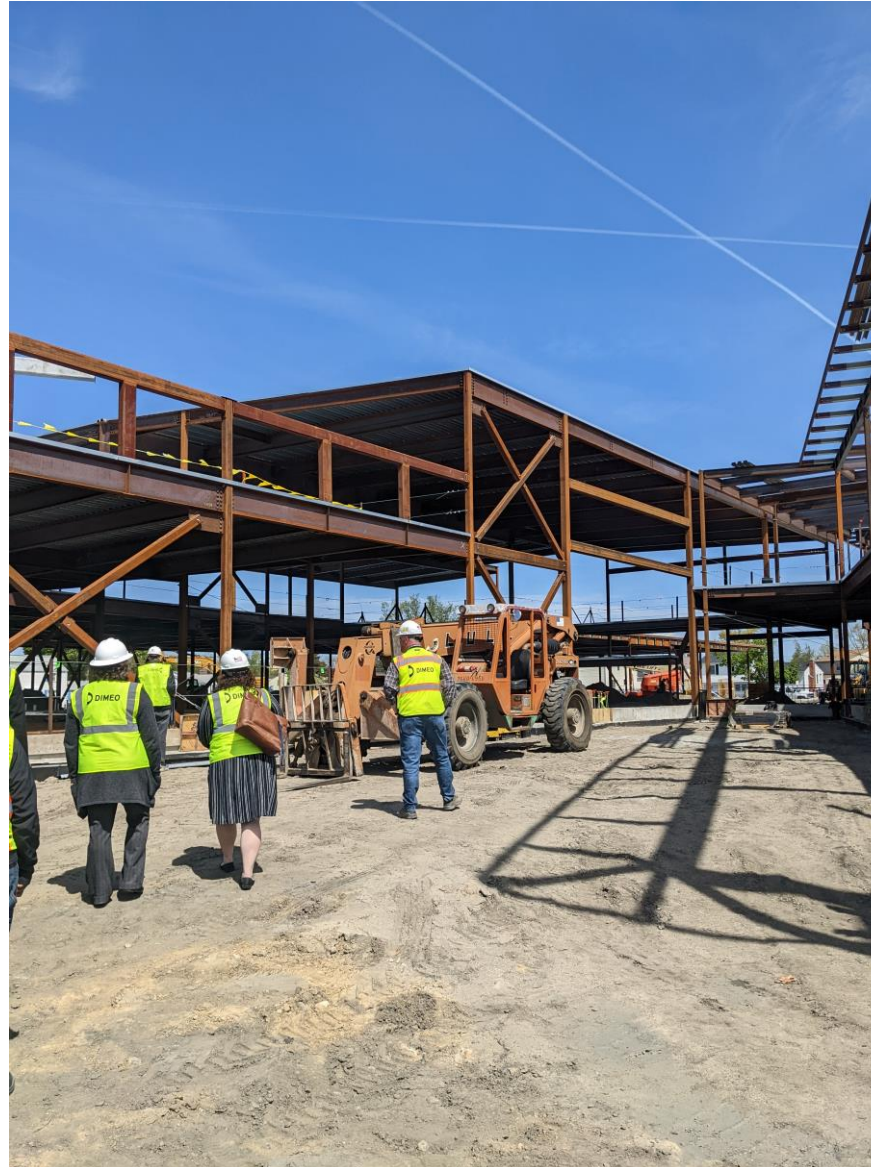
GREEN & HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Campaign Goals

1. Overhaul the state's outdated schools to provide a safe and healthy environment for all teachers, students, and staff.
2. Address the climate crisis and reduce air pollution by making all school buildings zero-carbon.
3. Create 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 good careers building the clean energy economy.

Activities

- Legislation getting schools to net zero by 2035 (H6008) (upcoming Senate bill)
- Delivering presentations on the problem & solution
- Helping school districts model potential projects, along with costs & benefits
- Identifying & sharing potential federal funding & financing opportunities for projects



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT: GREEN & HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Investing in net zero schools will enable us to safeguard our future while creating healthy environments for those who will inherit that future.

- Help District leaders access resources for energy audits and building assessments.
- Help District leaders access information for cost-benefit analyses of installing renewable energy systems.
- Help District leaders access technical assistance for project scoping and engineering.
- Help disseminate information about state programs, funding, and financing for District leaders.



TRACKING FEDERAL FUNDING

- Created a matrix that details current & upcoming competitive \$\$\$ opportunities for adaptation & mitigation efforts
- Outreach
 - Convening stakeholders
 - Listserv
 - One-ones / office hours
- Some grant applications require or encourage:
 - Workforce development components and/or labor standards
 - Partnerships or a consortium

RIGHT NOW BY THE NUMBERS

20+ opportunities for funding currently available for climate mitigation and resilience totaling more than **\$19 billion**

Topics and eligible activities include:

- Electric vehicles
- Electric buses
- Environmental justice
- Coastal resilience
- Passenger rail
- Housing
- Port electrification & resilience
- Emergency preparedness
- Grid resilience



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT: TRACKING FEDERAL FUNDING

Take advantage of federal funding!

We'd like to support your efforts if they align with our work.

What CJRI can do:

- Walk you through current & upcoming competitive funding opportunities.
- Partner on shared objectives & outcomes or shaping an application.
- Provide technical assistance as it pertains to workforce development.
- Mobilize stakeholders to support certain applications or join a grant consortium.
- Help you reach other stakeholders.



TAKEAWAYS

- **2025 Plan needs to center & consider the people behind each policy or recommendation**
 - This includes the job, career, and access implications
- **Equity is critical and it isn't just a principle or outcome**
 - Process and practice are just as important
- **Interagency coordination is key (EC4 is so important!)**
 - These issues intersect *everywhere*
 - Examples: green & healthy schools; green & healthy affordable housing; decarbonization through comprehensive planning
- **Local cities and towns need more technical support & guidance on how to act on climate**
 - EC4 can play a role

