

# RI 2025 Climate Action Strategy and CCAP

Municipalities Focus Area Meeting

April 4th, 2025

[bw] RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP



Lighthouse Consulting Group, Inc.

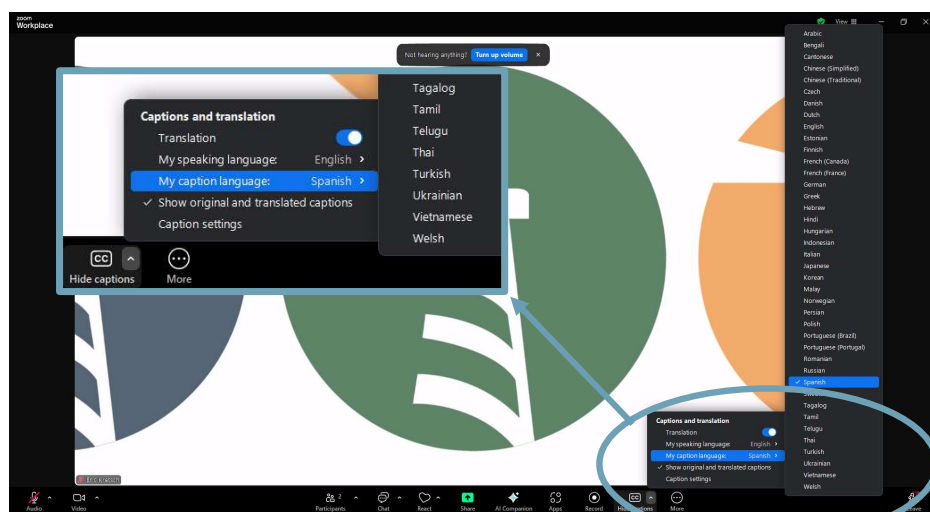


Energy+Environmental Economics

Chelsea Petrenko, E3  
Molly Bertotacini, E3  
Eric Kretsch, Lighthouse

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## Translated Closed Caption (CC) Available Acceso a subtítulos traducidos



- + Click on Closed Caption "CC" icon
- + Set "Speaking Language"
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Para Español:

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- + Haz clic en "My caption language" y selecciona "Spanish"

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## Ground rules and guidelines to participation



+ This workshop is being recorded so we can accurately capture your comments. We do not intend to post this recording publicly.



+ Power off other electronics and mute yourself to limit distractions.



+ Make space and take space. Be mindful of how much airtime you take, but we encourage you to voice your support and concern.



+ There are multiple ways to participate:

- Raise your hand to be called on
- Use the chat feature
- Utilize the Survey Monkey Form, so that we capture all you have to say.



+ Thank you in advance for your participation.

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## Introductions

### Energy and Environmental Economics (E3)



**Tory Clark**  
Project Partner



**Chelsea Petrenko**  
Project Lead



**Molly Bertolacini**  
Project Manager



**Nathaniel Kinsman**  
University of RI Energy Fellow

### Lighthouse Consulting Group



**Eric Kretsch**  
Sr. Associate Facilitator



**Kyle McElroy**  
Facilitator



### BW Research Partnership



**Cai Steger**  
Project Manager



**Mitch Schirch**  
Modeling Specialist

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## Project Goals

The overarching goal of this project is to create the RI Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program and the RI 2025 Climate Action Strategy as part of RI's Act on Climate

**+ The RI CCAP and RI 2025 Climate Action Strategy will consist of:**

- Robust stakeholder engagement
- GHG reduction measures modeling and sector-specific GHG target development
- Policy, technology and cost analyses
- Macroeconomic, workforce, climate resilience, and benefits analysis

**+ Key elements of each plan will include:**

- Energy efficiency in buildings and transportation
- Transition away from fossil fuel
- Transition to renewable electric power
- The removal of carbon from the air through land use and forest conservation
- A just transition for workers
- Considerations for energy affordability
- Benefits to environmental justice and low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDAC)



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## All Topic Areas for Engagement

How will climate mitigation efforts affect jobs, workforce and businesses? How can RI ensure a just transition as the economy decarbonizes?

**Workforce\***



What are the most effective strategies to ensure the communities most affected by climate change benefit from GHG reduction measures?

**EJ, equitable transition\***



How does decarbonization in RI affect the electric sector? What role do electric and gas utilities play in reducing emissions?

**Energy**



Which subsectors are the biggest contributors to RI's emissions? What strategies should be prioritized to reduce transportation emissions?

**Transportation**



What is the role of municipalities in decarbonizing RI's economy?

**Municipalities**



What pathways for reducing building related emissions should be prioritized?

**Buildings**




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## Today's Focus


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**Municipalities**



What pathways for reducing building related emissions should be prioritized?





**Buildings**



**Energy + Environmental Economics** \* These topics will be infused throughout ALL conversations, but also will have their own sessions 7

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## Project Status and Timeline

Winter 2025	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Fall 2025
<b>Kickoff</b>	<b>Gathering Feedback</b>	<b>Modeling</b>	<b>Report Writing</b>
Project kickoff <i>(complete)</i>	Focus-area and general stakeholder meetings <i>(in progress)</i>	GHG reduction modeling	Development of RI Climate Action Strategy + CCAP
			
	Collect feedback on draft inputs and assumptions <i>(in progress)</i>	Finalize GHG reduction measures	Benefits, macro-economic, and workforce modeling

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## Incorporating Feedback from 1/9 Kickoff Meeting

### What we heard so far...

- + Stakeholders require sufficient notice for scheduled meetings and time to review materials
- + Importance of education in the plan
- + Equity must be integrated throughout the entirety of the plan, not just in the environmental justice section
- + The importance of distinguishing between workforce development and worker impacts
- + The need to include businesses in the planning process

### Key changes incorporated into process...

- + Providing “save-the-dates” for all Action Plan Development stage stakeholder meetings
- + Exploring how to integrate the topic of education into the RI Climate Action Strategy
- + Building a framework for integrating equity throughout the entirety of the plan
- + Leading conversations about RI worker impacts with interested groups, in addition to the workforce stakeholder meeting
- + Partnering with Commerce RI to integrate conversations with/about businesses

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## The Role of an Equitable Transition in the RI Climate Action Strategy

The Act on Climate dictates that the RI Climate Action Strategy (RI CAS) “shall include an equitable transition to climate compliance for environmental justice populations, redress past environmental and public health inequities, and include a process where the interests of and people from populations most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and at risk of pollution, displacement, energy burden, and cost influence such plan.”



**Prioritize GHG Reduction Strategies that Advance Equity and Environmental Justice**




**Collaborate with Communities Most Impacted by Climate Change and Policies**




**Consider Decarbonization Cobenefits** (e.g., Workforce Development and Climate Resilience)

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**Questions?**




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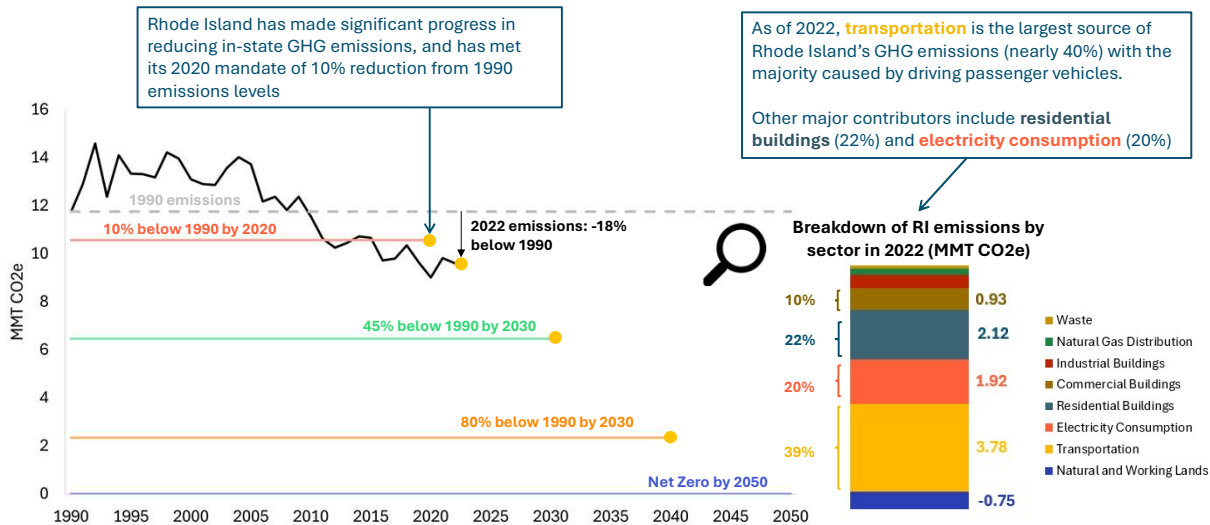
**Overview of Modeling Approach**



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## Tracking and Reporting RI's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

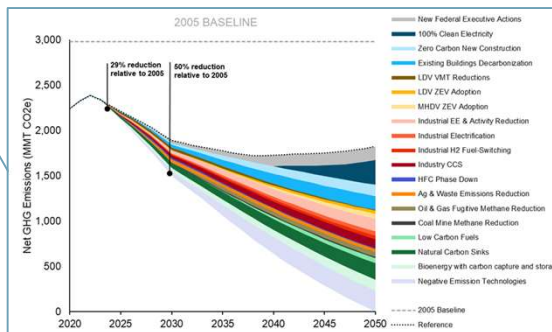


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## RI Climate Action Strategy Analysis Components

- + List of strategies, programs, and actions to meet RI's economywide emissions reduction targets across all sectors, sources, and sinks
- + Estimated GHG reductions from specific strategies
- + Short-term and long-term emissions reduction projections and sectoral targets for at least two scenarios:
  - Current policy scenario
  - Plan implementation scenario
- + Analysis of decarbonization benefits, including benefits for low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDAC), such as improved air quality and job creation
- + Analysis of authority to implement to determine the process and authority to implement the various GHG reduction strategies
- + Analysis of available funding to explore existing funding available to support GHG reduction strategies

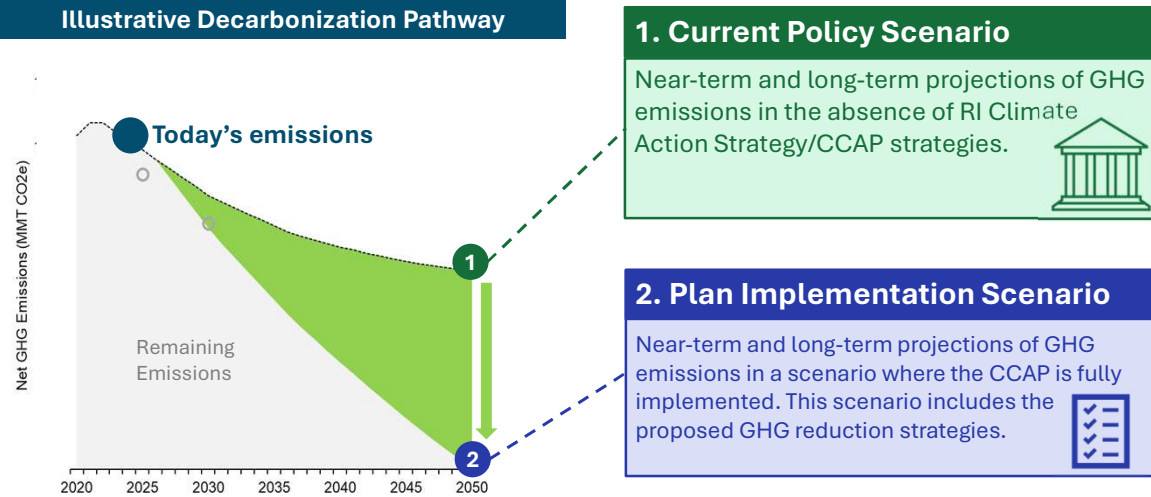
### Example Emissions Reduction Projection by Strategy\*



\* GHG reduction strategies refer to discrete actions that reduce emissions, such as electric vehicle adoption, building electrification, etc.

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## GHG Emissions Reduction Scenarios in the RI Climate Action Strategy



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**Questions?**

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## The Role of Municipalities in RI's Climate Action



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### Why Focus on Municipalities?



RI's cities and towns are at the forefront in RI's efforts to reduce GHG emissions, especially the more urban communities where more than half of the state's population resides.



Cities and towns are vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather and flooding. These impacts are sometimes felt even more in RI's densely populated areas.

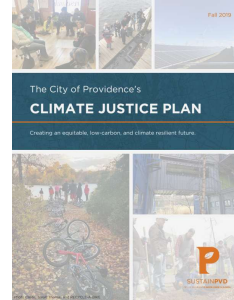


Municipalities are uniquely positioned to address climate change by implementing programs tailored to their jurisdictions.

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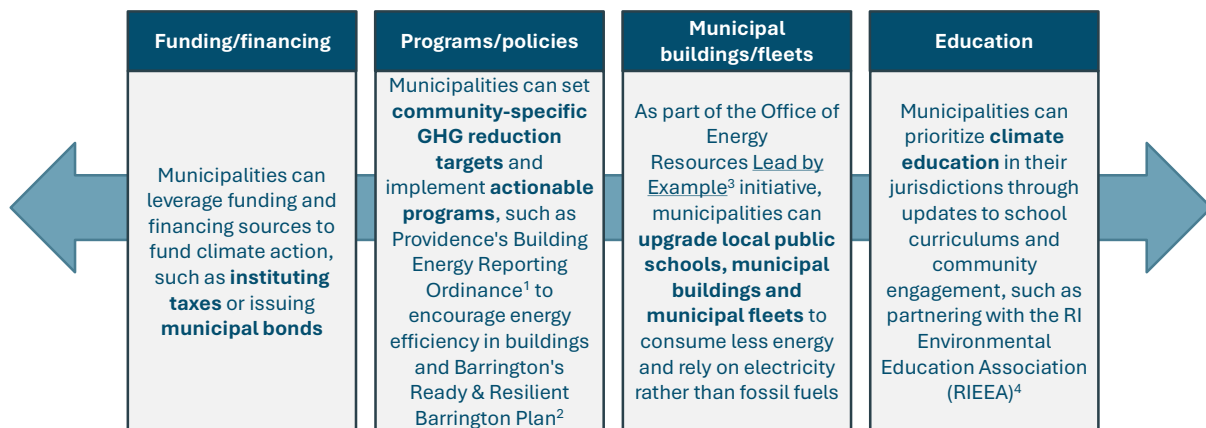
## The Role of Municipalities in Climate Planning

- + Municipalities are well positioned to advance climate action through mechanisms tailored to their jurisdiction's specific needs
- + Some municipalities across the country are creating their own *local climate action plans*, such as
  - Providence, RI
  - Boston, MA
  - San Francisco, CA
  - Chicago, IL
- + In RI, municipalities can also apply for funding through the **Municipal Resilience Program (MRP)** to address key community climate challenges
- + Municipalities have broad authority to implement energy-efficient measures for city/town buildings, prioritize renewable energy, regulate land use and deploy building performance standards



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## Examples of Opportunities for Cities and Towns in Climate Planning



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Survey Form

## Breakout Session #1: Opportunities and Barriers





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## Questions

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- + What are the greatest opportunities for the role of *municipalities* in decarbonizing Rhode Island?

+ ¿Cuáles son las mayores oportunidades para el papel de los municipios en la descarbonización de Rhode Island?
- + How can *municipalities* advance equity through decarbonization in Rhode Island?

+ ¿Cómo pueden los municipios promover la equidad a través de la descarbonización en Rhode Island?
- + What are the greatest barriers for *municipalities* in decarbonizing Rhode Island?

+ ¿Cuáles son las mayores barreras para los municipios en la descarbonización de Rhode Island?

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**Report Out**



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**Breakout Session #2:  
Municipality-Focused  
Decarbonization Strategies in RI**

Survey Form



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## Existing Municipality-Focused Decarbonization Strategies in RI



### Transportation

- Install carports with EV charging at municipal facilities
- Green the Fleet – adopt EVs for state and municipal fleets and install EV charging infrastructure
- RI’s municipal transit plans (Transit Forward RI 2040)
- Lead by Example Program

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- Lead by Example Program


### Buildings

- Heat pumps in municipal buildings
- Energy efficiency in municipal buildings
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program
- Heat pumps and energy management systems in schools
- Lead by Example Program

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## Existing Municipality-Focused Decarbonization Strategies in RI


 <b>Transportation</b>	 <b>Buildings</b>	 <b>Energy</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install carports with EV charging at municipal facilities</li> <li>• Green the Fleet – adopt EVs for state and municipal fleets and install EV charging infrastructure</li> <li>• RI’s municipal transit plans (Transit Forward RI 2040)</li> <li>• Lead by Example Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heat pumps in municipal buildings</li> <li>• Energy efficiency in municipal buildings</li> <li>• Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program</li> <li>• Heat pumps and energy management systems in schools</li> <li>• Lead by Example Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add solar and batteries for resilience and demand response on municipal buildings</li> <li>• Install LED streetlights with controls</li> <li>• Invest in municipal energy managers</li> <li>• Procure renewable energy from renewable sources</li> <li>• Lead by Example Program</li> </ul>


Sourced from RI’s Priority Climate Action Plan, RI’s 2022 Climate Update, and OER’s existing initiatives
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## Existing Municipality-Focused Decarbonization Strategies in RI

 <b>Transportation</b>	 <b>Buildings</b>	 <b>Energy</b>	 <b>Waste and Working Lands</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install carports with EV charging at municipal facilities</li> <li>• Green the Fleet – adopt EVs for state and municipal fleets and install EV charging infrastructure</li> <li>• RI’s municipal transit plans (Transit Forward RI 2040)</li> <li>• Lead by Example Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heat pumps in municipal buildings</li> <li>• Energy efficiency in municipal buildings</li> <li>• Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program</li> <li>• Heat pumps and energy management systems in schools</li> <li>• Lead by Example Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add solar and batteries for resilience and demand response on municipal buildings</li> <li>• Install LED streetlights with controls</li> <li>• Invest in municipal energy managers</li> <li>• Procure renewable energy from renewable sources</li> <li>• Lead by Example Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote food waste diversion from the Central Landfill in Rhode Island municipalities – divert to anaerobic digestion and composting facilities</li> </ul>


Sourced from RI’s Priority Climate Action Plan, RI’s 2022 Climate Update, and OER’s existing initiatives
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## Questions

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- + Please provide feedback on the existing municipality-focused decarbonization strategies under consideration, such as the strategies from the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and priority actions from the 2022 Climate Update.**
- + Proporcione comentarios sobre las estrategias de descarbonización centradas en los municipios existentes que se están considerando, como las estrategias del Plan de Acción Climática Prioritaria (PCAP) y las acciones prioritarias de la Actualización Climática de 2022.
  
- + What strategies are missing and should be explored in the RI Climate Action Strategy?**
- + ¿Qué estrategias faltan y deberían explorarse en la Estrategia de Acción Climática de RI?

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## Report Out

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## Wrap-up Question

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- + What strategies discussed today are most important to you?
- + ¿Qué estrategias discutidas hoy son las más importantes para usted?

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## Wrap Up and Next Steps

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- + E3 and RI will consider feedback from this session when developing the final list of strategies to include in the modeling
- + Please feel free to submit additional feedback on the role of municipalities

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RICASMunicipalities>



- + RI, Lighthouse, and E3 will host additional engagement sessions over the course of March and April
- + E3 and BW will complete the quantitative GHG and workforce modeling over the summer

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## Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

### + Workforce Focus Area Meeting

- 4/8/2025 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Virtual Zoom meeting

### + Energy Focus Area Meeting

- **[LIKELY TO BE RESCHEDULED]** 4/15/2025 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- Virtual Zoom meeting

### + General Stakeholder Meeting [In-person]

- 4/17/2025 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- **Providence/Cranston:** Providence Career & Technical Academy

### + General Stakeholder Meeting

- 4/29/2025 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

- Virtual Zoom meeting

### + General Stakeholder Meeting [In-person]


- 5/5/2025 6:00 pm - 8:00 PM
- **Newport:** Location TBD

Find the information for all upcoming events here: <https://climatechange.ri.gov/events>


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## Staying in the Loop on the 2025 Strategy

Sign up to receive ongoing announcements about engagement on the RI 2025 Climate Action Strategy [HERE](#)

 Sign up for updates!

Get the latest updates from the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) in your inbox.

 **Subscribe**

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# Thank You

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How did we do? Help improve future engagement events



English



Español