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To: EC4 Advisory Board Members
From: Patrick Dugan – RIDEM/EC4 Energy Fellow
Date: July 8th, 2025
Subject: Analysis of Community Engagement Participation – Spring 2025 Events

As part of our continued efforts to evaluate public engagement on climate-related initiatives, I reviewed Zoom registration data for seven virtual community engagement events held earlier this spring. This memo summarizes findings from that analysis, with a focus on registrant participation history and geographic representation. Please note that this analysis excludes the January 9, 2025 2025 Climate Action Strategy Project Kickoff meeting and the three in-person events held in April and May.

After removing duplicate entries, a total of 317 unique individuals registered for the online meetings. Each registrant was asked whether they had previously participated in a Rhode Island climate change action community meeting. Of those, 111 individuals (35.0%) responded “Yes,” 109 individuals (34.4%) responded “No,” and 23 individuals (7.3%) indicated they had participated in other types of community meetings not specifically focused on climate change. A significant portion—74 individuals (23.3%)—did not respond to this question. This distribution demonstrates meaningful engagement from both new and returning participants, suggesting that the spring events were effective in maintaining connections with past attendees while also reaching a broader audience.

An analysis of ZIP code data shows that a large share of participants came from Providence and surrounding urban areas. The most frequently reported ZIP codes were: 02908 (23 registrants), 02903 (18), 02909 (16), 02906 (13), 02905 (12), and 02907 (10), all of which are in Providence or Providence/Cranston. Additional notable engagement came from 02879 (Wakefield, 9 registrants), 02807 (Block Island, 8), 02840 (Newport, 7), and 02892 (West Kingston, 6). Not all participants offered ZIP codes as it was not a required field on the registration form. These numbers suggest a strong urban aspect of engagement, with some moderate representation from coastal and southern Rhode Island as well. Making sure geographic diversity will remain important for future outreach strategies.

This analysis offers an important perspective on the reach and impact of this spring’s virtual events. The strong turnout from both new and returning participants emphasizes the effectiveness of the outreach strategy and suggests increasing public interest in climate-related conversations. Looking ahead, placing more focus on accessibility, geographic balance, and a follow-up with those who did not respond could improve future engagement and build a better foundation for long-term participation.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions at patrick.dugan.int@dem.ri.gov.