

# RI Climate Action Strategy and Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

December EC4 Meeting

December 18, 2025

RIEC<sup>4</sup>

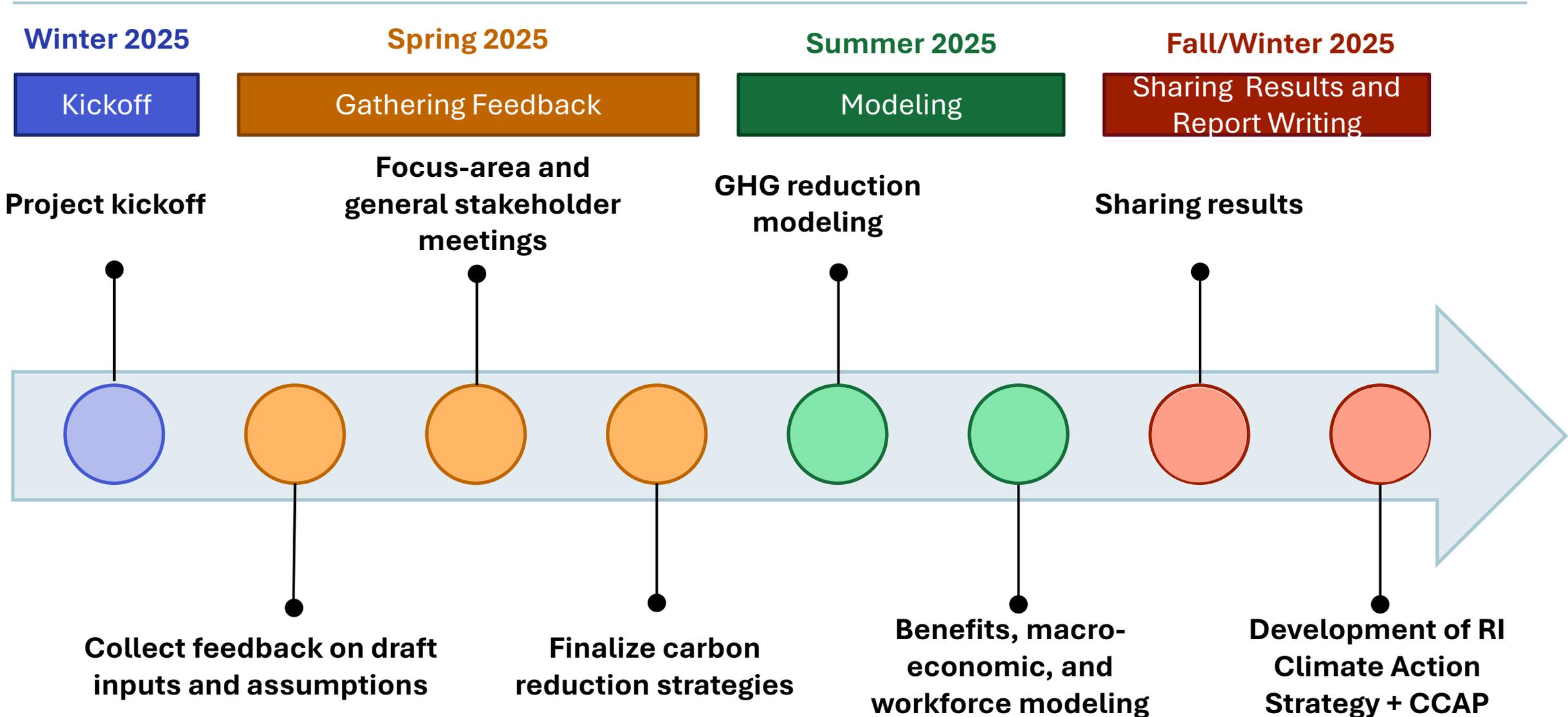


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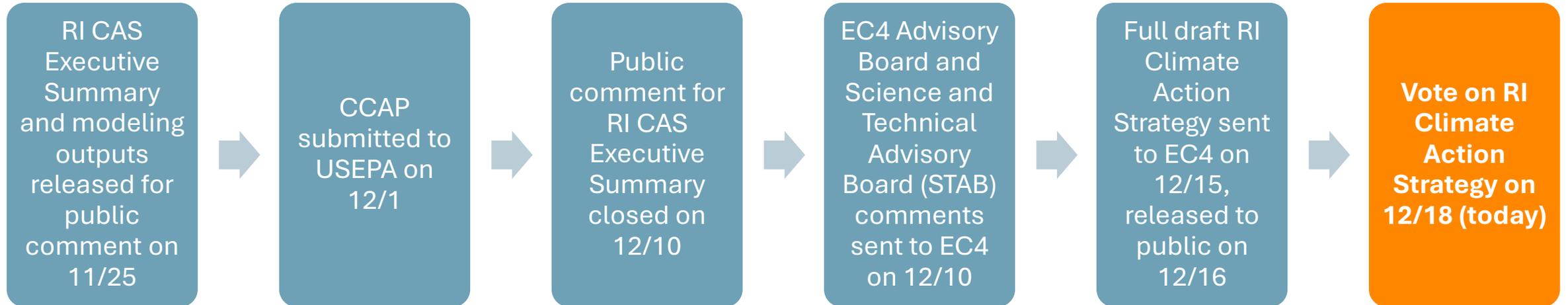
- + **Project status and timeline**
- + **Overview of RI Climate Action Strategy approval process**
- + **Stakeholder feedback on Executive Summary**
- + **EC4 options for implementation**

# Project Status and Timeline



# Process for Final Deliverables

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**Feedback Received Since  
Releasing the Drafted Executive  
Summary**

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# Feedback received

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**+ 60 responses captured in SmartComment ranging between two sentences to detailed memos**

**+ Top four concerns were the following:**

1. Call for Clear Implementation Plan:
  - Commenters called for specific actions, timelines, agency roles.
2. Call for sector-specific GHG reduction targets:
  - The strategy provides information to support such targets, which would need to be set in coordination with other RI agencies and regulatory bodies
3. The plan is optimistic given headwinds:
  - EV adoption: ACCII/ACT uncertainty
  - Heat pump adoption: Need more programming to achieve projected adoption
  - Renewable Energy Standard: Clean energy market shifts present new risks
4. Greater Transparency Requested in Modeling Inputs & Assumptions
  - All input, model output data, and methodologies are posted for the public

## **Options for Implementation**

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# Options for Implementation Identified in Draft Strategy

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- + Renewable Energy Standard (RES): Recent federal policy changes and market disruptions are increasing the cost of RES compliance for Rhode Island ratepayers and warrant a reassessment of the program's structure to ensure an affordable path to decarbonization. The State should consider updates
- + Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Programs: The State should continue its energy-efficiency and renewable-energy programs, while applying more sustainable investment levels to better align with regional peers.
- + Codify in state law Governor McKee's Lead by Example Executive Order
- + Maximize and deploy all remaining federal energy funds to accelerate installation of EV charging infrastructure, municipal energy efficiency projects and expand access to heat pumps and electric stoves statewide.
- + Continue investing in the Clean Heat RI program
- + Targeted focus on the integration of pre-weatherization energy and energy efficiency funds
- + Pursue a Clean Energy, Green Economy, Resilience Bond on the 2026 ballot
- + Continue investing in the state's EV rebate program, household EV-charging incentives, and electric-bicycle rebates

# Options for Implementation Identified in Draft Strategy

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- + A commercial scale energy storage program is developed and launched by the Office of Energy Resources
- + Ensure the Revolution Wind project comes online in 2026
- + OER initiates a communication campaign promoting RI leadership and progress in availability of EV charging infrastructure
- + Governor McKee appoints Secretary of the Executive Office of Housing to EC4
- + Governor McKee extends voluntary Climate Leadership Challenge to RI businesses
- + DEM and the OER engage with RI auto dealers and large fleet operators on increasing availability of EVs and GHG reductions.
- + DEM works with other states to develop alternatives to EPA models and data sources for GHG inventory calculations
- + RI Department of Education continues implementing school readiness programs
- + RI Department of Transportation continues to calculate and consider GHG impacts in STIP.
- + Capitalize the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank's Resilient Rhody Fund

# Options for Implementation Identified in Draft Strategy

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- + RI Department of Transportation continues to calculate and consider GHG impacts in STIP
- + RI Department of Labor & Training continues to support the Green Energy Workforce Advisory Committee
- + EC4 agencies continue to support community conversations with environmental justice communities
- + The Department of Environmental Management and Commerce work together to explore opportunities to expand organic waste diversion, anaerobic digestion, and the generation of renewable natural gas in Rhode Island
- + DEM works with the University of Rhode Island, farmers, and advocates to expand regenerative agricultural techniques across the state.
- + The RI Public Transit Authority continues flex service, van pool, & “transit for visitors” initiatives
- + As funding allows, the Department of Environmental Management and the RI Public Transit Authority continue transition of public transit and school bus fleets to hybrid and EV buses.
- + DEM pilots and extends battery powered landscaping programs.
- + DEM, with the assistance of other EC4 agencies, publishes an annual report highlighting progress on the policies and programs that are detailed in the strategy along with new policies/programs that are enacted

## **Next Steps**

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# Next Steps for the Climate Action Strategy + EC4

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- + Deeper review of feedback offered; will inform follow-up discussions & the agenda of the EC4 in 2026
- + Non-technical summary of the Climate Action Strategy
  - Easy-to-read overview for the general public
  - Translation into Spanish
- + Public comment portal (SmartComment) remains open
  - Ongoing opportunity for Rhode Islanders to share feedback
- + All data and technical appendices are posted online
  - Enables transparent review of assumptions and modeling
- + Updated, graphically designed report coming in Q1 2026
  - More user-friendly layout and improved visuals
- + More broadly for the EC4 ➡ complete the 2025 Resilience Plan early next year

**Thank You**

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