



Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience

STAB Technical Consultant Presentation

STAB Meeting
February 12, 2026



Agenda

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C-Team Scope of Work

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Website Updates

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Draft Resilient Rhody Review

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Final Climate Strategy Review

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STAB Statement on Climate Strategy
Impacts from Draft Budget Proposal

Administrative Check In – C-Team Extension

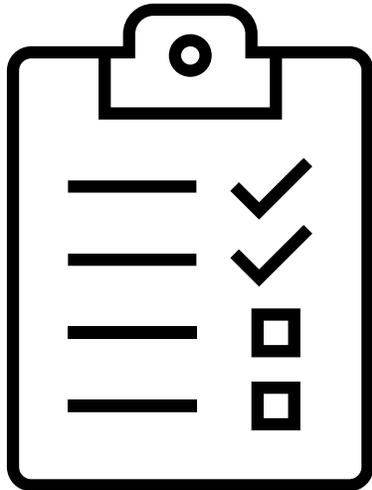
Opportunity for STAB to **extend C-Team contract**, allocate remaining funding

- Enables continued support for core STAB responsibilities, continuity with current SOW
- Technical and scientific review and input regarding relevant studies, policies, and programs
- STAB may elect to formally vote on this today

Separately, the STAB would need to **request additional funding from EC4** to enable continued C-Team support beyond the currently available funds

- Not necessary to dig deeply into this today
- Worth beginning to think about now, so the request is ready for EC4's annual budgeting process if the STAB wants to go that direction

Recent and Upcoming Work



Recent tasks, to be reviewed today, include:

- Systematic **review of final climate strategy materials**, STAB questions
- Comprehensive **review of draft Resilient Rhody plan**

Upcoming tasks include:

- Support STAB review and input regarding **technical impacts of near-term climate & energy related policies & actions** in RI
- Support **finalization process for Resilience Plan**
- STAB Annual Scientific Report

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STAB Letter & Website Updates

- **STAB Letter will be prominently posted on 2025 Climate Action Strategy website**
 - Currently, it is only available by scrolling to that section of the Appendices

- **Recommendation to update the STAB's page to mirror the structure of the EC4 and Advisory Board pages**
 - Will ensure meeting materials are readily available to the public
 - Councilor input on this idea?

Advisory Board Description

The EC4 Advisory Board is charged with advising the EC4 on all matters pertaining to the duties and powers of the Council, including evaluating and making recommendations regarding plans, programs, and strategies relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation. It shall also assist the EC4 in communication/outreach and improving public access to resources/information about climate change (both mitigation and adaptation) so as to build public support for making RI's communities more resilient.

Please note: Final meeting agendas and approved minutes can be found on the RI Secretary of States Office Open Meetings website at <https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/OpenMeetings>. Please search Public Bodies for "Climate Change Coordinating Council, Rhode Island Executive – Advisory Board".

July 30, 2025 Public Meeting Materials

-  [STAB Consultant Team Technical Questions](#)
PDF file, less than 1mb 
-  [Agenda 7/30/2025](#)
PDF file, less than 1mb 
-  [Summary of Community Engagement Participation](#)
PDF file, less than 1mb 

June 25, 2025 Public Meeting Materials

May 28, 2025 Public Meeting Materials

April 30, 2025 Public Meeting Materials

March 26, 2025 Public Meeting Materials

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Review Process & Selected Comments

Review Process

- C-Team resilience experts provided detailed technical review of each chapter (75+ total comments)
- Comments reviewed, refined, and consolidated into a memo covering all feedback
- Memo was provided to RIDEM and Resilience Plan consultant team

Highlighted Comments

- Plan is comprehensive and thorough
- Prior STAB feedback not addressed
- Opportunities to increase impact by:
 - Shifting focus toward near- and medium-term (rather than 2100)
 - Define near-term roadmap using SMART framework to enhance actionability
 - Stronger emphasis on prioritization, incl. using absolute risk rather than relative
 - Centering the tangible value of resilience improvements (rather than expenditures)
 - Incl. assessing specific social and health vulnerabilities for specific RI populations

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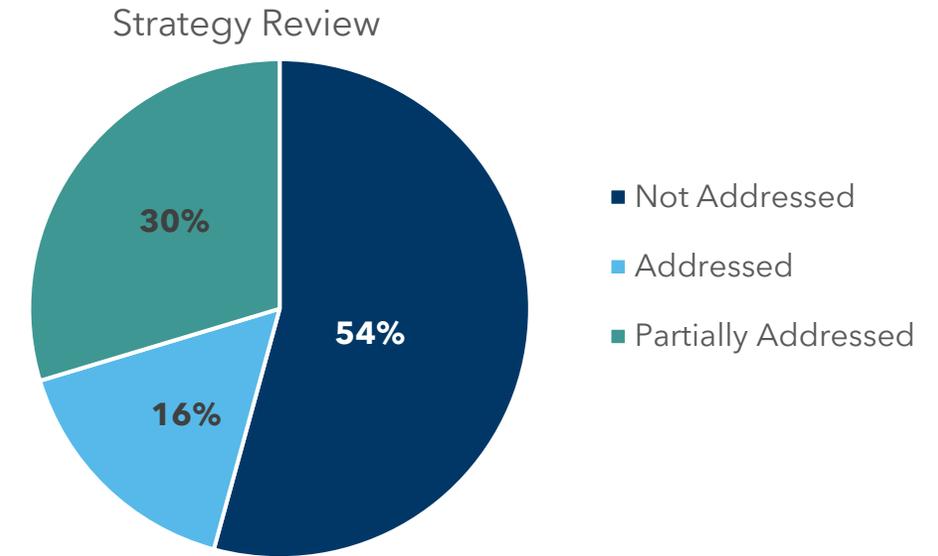
Process Overview

- STAB C-Team Questions Tracker updated to highlight where questions or recommendations were addressed in the public record (today's meeting material)
- Sources reviewed include all public files accessible on the 2025 Climate Action Strategy webpage (includes technical documentation and materials)

Question #	Question Set Name	Question sent date	Questions	Mem	Question Topic	Question Sector	Question Subsector	Question/Comment	Strategy Response	Strategy Response Notes	Strategy Response Location
1	STAB Consultant Team Technical Que	2025.07.22	1	1	PATHWAYS model	Overarching	Key Drivers	Has E3 demonstrated correlation between the Pathways model's three key drivers and each of the stock rollover subsectors? How is the selection and use of these drivers	Not Addressed	The three high-level drivers (e.g., stock turnover, demand,	Table 1: Stock rollover subsectors in Pathways, p.3,
2	STAB Consultant Team Technical Que	2025.07.22	1	2	PATHWAYS model	Overarching	Key Drivers	We agree with other stakeholder feedback that flags the need to update population and housing growth rates from the current 2013 forecasts.	Addressed	No mention of 2013 data used Data sources discussed at a high level, but no comprehensive categorization of inputs by origin is provided. The Technical Appendix includes a Data Sources section listing default data sources for key inputs. Occasional references to prior work (including Future of Gas).	Pathway Model Draft Data Inputs - Key drivers tab Energy Master Plan pg.3 - "For future years, the total stock is determined using growth rates for various key indicators (e.g., population)." Technical appendix, Table 4 on pg. 16. "Table 4 below lists the default data sources for key inputs to the stock rollover subsectors.", Table 6: Energy only default data sources pg. 22, Table 8: Emissions only default data sources pg. 25
3	STAB Consultant Team Technical Que	2025.07.22	1	3	PATHWAYS model	Overarching	Data Source Rigor	For each input in the PATHWAYS model, please identify where inputs currently used in the Pathways model are: general (i.e., baseline assumptions in the Pathways model), carried forward from a recent study in another jurisdiction; carried forward from E3's work on the Future of Gas Docket in Rhode Island; or updated directly for this project to reflect up-to-date Rhode Island-specific context, policies and data.	Partially Addressed	The final public documentation does not	

Summary of Review Findings

- Findings were categorized into three segments
 - Addressed
 - Partially Addressed
 - Not Addressed
- Most questions and comments were not addressed (54%)
 - 30% were partially addressed
 - 16% were addressed



- *Some STAB responses were not incorporated into the final public files.*
- *Consider consolidating and updating public files to include reviewed internal materials.*
- *This tracker reflects the final published strategy only.*

Addressed: The STAB comment or question is explicitly addressed in the final public Climate Strategy and/or technical documentation.

Partially Addressed: The STAB comment or question is addressed in part in the final public documents, but key elements of the issue are not fully addressed or are only indirectly referenced.

Not Addressed: The STAB comment or question is not addressed or acknowledged in the final public Climate Strategy or accompanying technical documentation.

Examples - Addressed

- Addressed:
 - **The Heat Pump Accelerator is assumed to cease having an impact after 2030, when in fact market transformation efforts such as this are likely to have persistent effects even after the initial intervention has ended.**
 - *Updated forecast to reflect a stabilized market share of heat pumps and EVs post-incentives.*
 - Please go into further detail about how the “early retirement function” was used to account for early retirements of existing furnaces and boilers in favour of heat pumps.
 - *Calculation walk through included in the Energy Master Plan.*
 - Please provide a detailed explanation of how mode-switching (away from personal vehicles to transit and active transportation) has been modeled and integrated in the model.
 - *Included sources and file on RIDOT/Cambridge transportation reduction strategy file.*

The Tracker contains the full set STAB C-Team questions and our assessment of the degree to which the final climate strategy documents address them. It has been shared as a public material for today's STAB Meeting.

Examples – Partially Addressed

- Partially Addressed:
 - **How is E3 considering other transportation-related studies and plans, such as RIDEM Transportation Emissions Reduction Strategy?**
 - ***No specific mention of RIDEM Transportation Emissions Reduction Strategy, but strategy includes source on RIDOT/Cambridge transportation reduction strategy file.***
 - Please provide a list of existing Rhode Island measures and policies that E3 has incorporated into the model inputs and assumptions to date, with a general explanation and specific details of how and where each has been integrated.
 - *A consolidated decarbonization strategy list that explicitly identifies existing measures and policies is not provided. However, Table 5: Scenario Assumptions by Category (Climate Strategy Draft, p. 55) does present current policy assumptions and highlights differences in key scenario inputs across categories for the Current Policy and Act on Climate scenarios.*

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Examples - Not Addressed

- Not Addressed:
 - **How does the model account for a declining supply, and/or rising cost, of RECs, if other states in the northeast also pursue ambitious state-level decarbonization goals? ...Has E3 considered the compliance/cost risk for Rhode Island if other states raise their alternative compliance payment values?**
 - Have any scenarios been considered that accurately reflect upstream (including out of state) emissions from low-carbon/renewable fuels?
 - Urea fertilization: It appear that only CO₂ is being considered, but application of urea also releases N₂O - especially during use on agricultural soils. Will this be included as well?

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STAB Statement
on Climate
Strategy Impacts
from FY2027
Proposed Budget

Open discussion among members

Draft document among meeting materials shared for today

Questions?



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