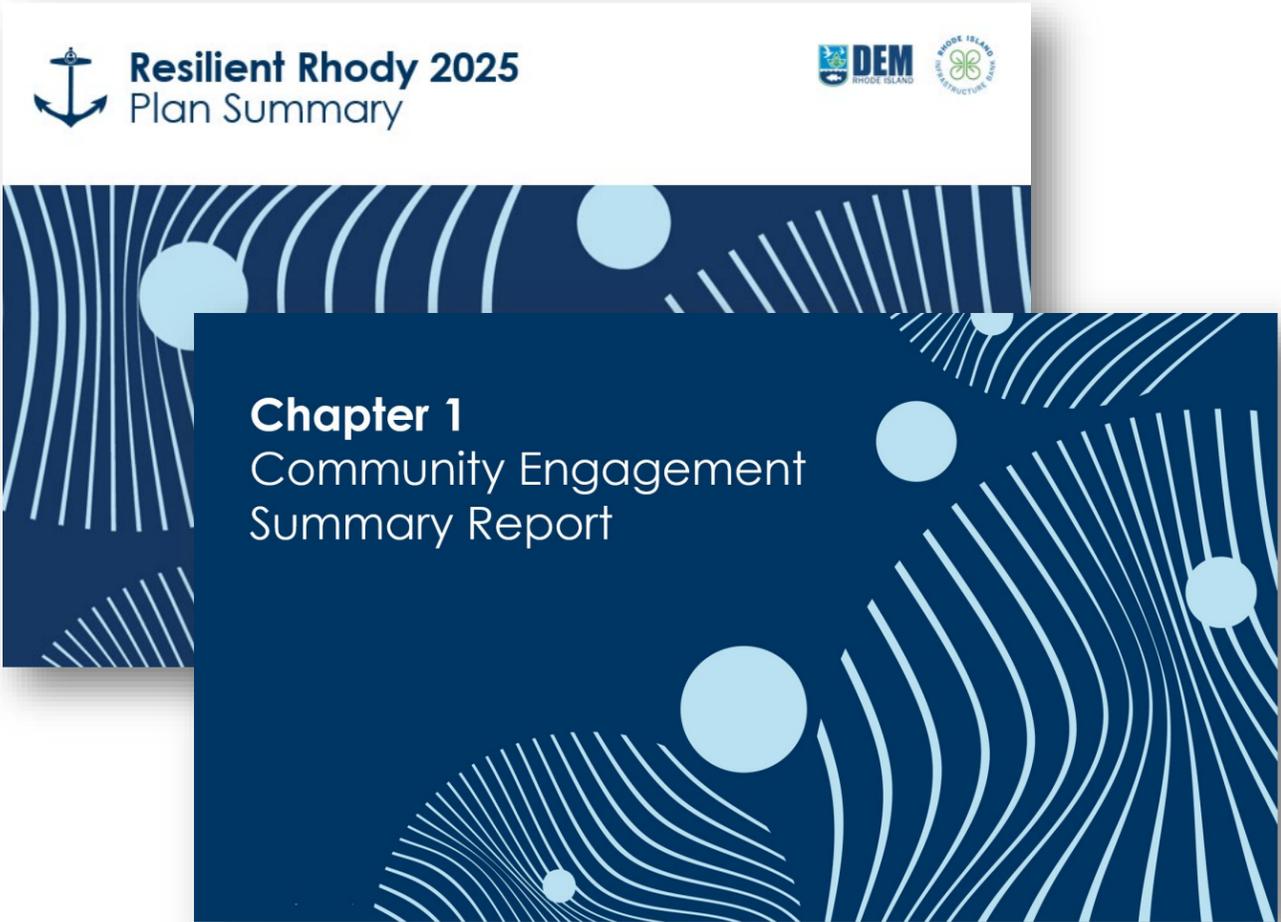




How to Read Resilient Rhody 2025

Resilient Rhody 2025 is organized into a Plan Summary and nine supporting chapters.

The Plan Summary provides an accessible overview of key takeaways, while each chapter offers a more detailed explanation of the methodology, engagement approach, and findings. These chapters also include practical resources for practitioners. The following pages present examples of the types of content featured in each chapter.



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Chapter Summaries

Chapter 1 Community Engagement Summary Report

Municipal Stakeholder Working Session 01

Theme: Gap Analysis + Action Development
Date: June 20, 2025
Attendees: 30

Activity: Stakeholders completed a survey on which resilience issues brought them to the working session. After the survey, virtual whiteboards were presented with asset types and stakeholders were requested to identify asset-specific resilience challenges.

Key Findings:

- Stormwater:** Want to see state resiliency officers spearhead PL-566 for Moshassuck River for Pawt, PVD, Lincoln, CF, great funding support for this - but need someone to help be through-line for all communities. This is like a 10-yr process.
- Community Health:** I think the basics like how sustainability, resilience, and adaptat hands-cascadi
- Other:** Stakeholders called for stronger stewardship and coordinated action, including improved emergency communication protocols, expanded heat response, and integrating resilience into schools' curricula.
- Other:** Stakeholders emphasized critical infrastructure vulnerabilities, including aging stormwater and sewer systems; aquifer risks; inadequate public awareness of runoff; the need for clearer policies on development in flood-prone areas.

Community Forum 03

Theme: Asset Prioritization
Location: Newport Library + online
Date: September 10, 2025
Attendees: 15 in person + 6 online

Participants scored hypothetical assets against five drafted criteria under consideration for the prioritization approach.

After scoring, they discussed how weighting of criteria could be applied to ensure fair assessment and inclusion of underrepresented project types. The weighting used in this plan was informed by the average weightings developed across groups during this session, as well as averaged weightings developed during parallel Municipal Stakeholder session.

Completed Asset Prioritization Activity Cards
Completed activity cards illustrating each group's scoring approach and prioritization outcomes.

Chapter 1: Community Engagement Summary Report

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the four community forums, six municipal stakeholder meetings, and the Health Equity Zone Frontline Community Forum conducted throughout the Plan's development. The chapter details the theme, location, date, number of attendees, and activities for each session along with key takeaways and explanation of how those insights were incorporated into the Plan.

Chapter 2 Resilient Rhody 2025 Actions

Action 14.01

State Resilience Action Tracking: Refine the tracking system for State resilience actions identified in this plan to continually measure progress and demonstrate alignment with EC4 climate resilience goals. Make sure tracking includes agency ownership, defined timelines, and regular progress updates through the EC4 and Resilience EC4 Subgroup.

Building upon the structure of the 2024 State of Resilience Report and Resilience EC4 Subgroup, continue to grow a coordinated, publicly-accessible mechanism to share progress, foster collaboration across agencies, and build coalitions across sectors and communities.

Category: Infrastructure, Natural Systems, Community Resilience, Emergency Preparedness

Asset Type: All Critical Infrastructure, Drinking Water, Wastewater, Dams, Stormwater, Ports, Electric Grid, Fuel Supply, Roads, Bridges, & Culverts, Public Transportation, Beaches & Bays, Coastal Wetlands, Forests, Water Reclamation, Evacuation Routes & Emergency Shelters, Building Design & Construction, Emergency Services, Community Health & Resilience, Financing Climate Resilience Projects

Responsibility: RIDEM, Resilience EC4 Subgroup

Driver: State, Gap Analysis, Community, Father, Municipal

Implementation Need(s): Intergovernmental Coordination, Collection & Information Systems, Education, Engagement, & Awareness

Potential Funding Source: National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF)

Timeframe: Short-Term (1-2 years), Medium-Term (2-5 years), Long-Term (Ongoing)

Metrics for Success: A coordinated, publicly-accessible tracking system to measure and share progress of State resilience actions is refined and made publicly accessible.

Funding Need: N/A, \$, \$5, \$15, \$25

Chapter 2: Resilient Rhody 2025 Actions

Chapter 2 includes all 79 Resilient Rhody 2025 actions and establishes cross-agency goals for each asset type. Each action page summarizes the action, identifies the responsible agency(ies) or lead party(ies), outlines the primary driver(s), details implementation needs, lists potential funding sources and estimated amounts, and provides timeline and success metrics to move towards implementation.

Chapter Summaries

Chapter 3 Statewide Climate Vulnerability Assessment

Asset Risk Assessment Structure – Summary Page

- 1. Asset Group:** Each asset is in one of four asset groups. The highlighted box indicates the representative asset group.
- 2. Asset Introduction:** Reports the total number of assets and the asset characteristic data that was available from the geospatial data. The Asset-Hazard Pairing identifies the assessed hazards for each asset. The asset summary gives a narrative background on the asset.
- 3. Summary Table:** For each assessed Asset-Hazard pair, it shows (1) results from Task 2.3 Screening Exposure Assessment, (2) the identified primary and cascading consequence, and (3) the assessed vulnerability metric and its associated data source.



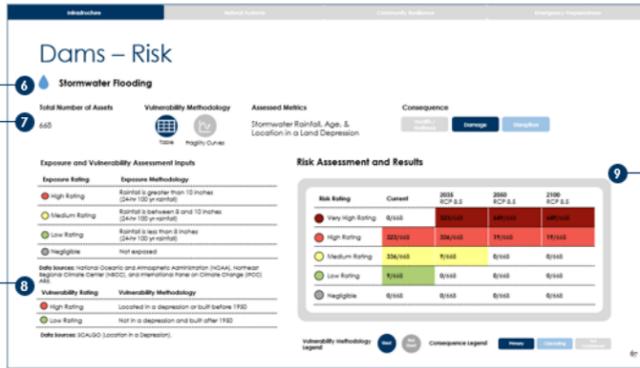
Asset Risk Assessment Structure – Risk Results

6. Climate Hazard: Vulnerability Introduction: Identifies the assessed climate hazard. There will be one page of results for each assessed hazard.

7. Vulnerability Introduction: Includes number of assets, the vulnerability methodology used (table vs. fragility curve), the metrics that were used in the vulnerability assessment, and relates the identified consequences.

8. Exposure and Vulnerability Inputs: Summary of the exposure and vulnerability inputs and their associated methodologies, includes data sources used in the assessment.

9. Risk Assessment Results: Reports the summary risk results for each assessed climate hazard and time horizon.



Chapter 3: Statewide Climate Vulnerability Assessment

Chapter 3 outlines the methodology and results for the Statewide Climate Vulnerability Assessment. The result pages identify asset-hazard risks across all assessed asset types and five hazards: coastal flooding, stormwater flooding, riverine flooding, extreme heat, and extreme wind. Asset-hazard pairs were assessed under current and future time horizons and two emissions scenarios, data permitting. The findings illustrate how risk is projected to change over time for each assessed pair.

Chapter 4 Priority Assets List Summary

Priority Assets List Development

Feedback Process

The Priority Assets List is the result of a comprehensive vulnerability assessment, prioritization process, and integration of statewide feedback. The Prioritization Approach utilized was developed specifically for the scope of this Plan. The Priority Assets List reflected herein does not include all vulnerable assets, nor does it reflect broader prioritization initiatives. A comprehensive database of all at-risk assets evaluated through this process has been provided to the state to support future work and enable continued prioritization efforts beyond the scope of this initiative.

Review Process
The Priority Assets List was created through input gathered from multiple engagement streams, including community forums and municipal stakeholder working sessions. Platforms for feedback included virtual and in-person meetings, email, Miro, and Mentimeter. After each meeting outlined to the right, participants were given time to review and provide feedback on the list. The official review period ran from Friday, October 3 through Friday, October 24. Regional Resilience Coordinators contacted municipalities within their networks to solicit feedback. Stakeholders provided input via email and follow-up calls. For further information on the community engagement process, refer to Chapter 1: Community Engagement Summary Report.

Additional Priority Assets
The list reflected herein represents an additive approach: new assets were added as they were identified, and assets were only removed upon direct request from stakeholders actively engaged with them.

Some assets were determined to be more local in scale. These are included in a separate list titled "Additional Priority Assets" (17 assets) and should be targeted for future local climate adaptation and resilience planning efforts. While certain solutions outlined in this Plan may apply to these sites, dedicated solutions were not developed as part of this Plan.

Asset or Solution Type	Asset	Municipality	
Roads & Bridges Flood Mitigation (Prevention Focus)	Newport Bridge	Jamestown, Newport	
	Route 114 Corridor	East Providence, Bristol, Warren, Barrington, Cranston	
	Associations - Part of Galilee Ferry Connectivity	New Shoreham, Narragansett	
	Port of Providence Infrastructure	Providence	
	New Shoreham	New Shoreham	
	Resilient Port Infrastructure Solutions	Port of Providence Infrastructure	Providence
		Multiple	Providence
		Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence
		Western Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence
		Providence Sewer Overflow Mitigation	Providence
East Providence Sewered Area		East Providence	
West Providence Sewered Area		West Providence	
East Greenwich Sewered Area		East Greenwich	
Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility		Westerly	
Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility		Cranston	
Wastewater Treatment Facility Redesign	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
Drinking Water & Reservoir Resilience	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
Beach & Wetland System Resilience	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
River & Stream Resilience with a Focus on the Narragansett River	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
Hospital Flood & Energy Resilience Solutions	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
School & Public Safety Building Solutions	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
Fox Field Hurricane Barrier Alignment	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
Advancing Providence Station Resilience Measures	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
Furthering Regional Flood Planning Efforts	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
Roads and Bridges	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
Hardened Structures	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
Public Transportation	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
Waste Management Facility	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
Conservation Lands	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
Rivers and Streams	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
Housing	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	
	East Providence Sewered Area	East Providence	
	West Providence Sewered Area	West Providence	
	East Greenwich Sewered Area	East Greenwich	
	Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility	Westerly	
	Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility	Cranston	
	East Providence Wastewater Treatment Facility	East Providence	
	Westerly Stormwater Infrastructure	Westerly	
	Providence Combined Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	Providence	

Chapter 4: Priority Assets List Summary & List

Chapter 4 includes all the priority assets that were identified through Resilient Rhody 2025's prioritization process. The chapter provides more detail on the prioritization approach, which incorporated results from the statewide climate vulnerability assessment, development of weighted prioritization criteria, and integration of statewide feedback.

Chapter Summaries

Chapter 5 Climate Adaptation & Resilience Solutions

Chapter 5: Climate Adaptation & Resilience Solutions

Road & Bridge Flood Mitigation Solutions with a focus on evacuation

Road & Bridge Flood Mitigation Solutions Summary

Steps for Implementation

- Stakeholder Engagement**: Identify key stakeholders and maintain engagement throughout the project planning process to build project support.
- Data Collection and Existing Conditions Analysis**: Review existing conditions to understand limitations to potential alternatives, such as assets and potential solutions, risks, and strategic relocation needs. Keep evacuation routes accessible.
- Vulnerability Assessment**: Conduct a vulnerability assessment to identify flood pathways and better define the flood risk. Identify assets and populations, utilize climate data from climate models and RCOF.
- Hydraulic and Hydrologic (H&H) Modeling and Analysis**: Perform H&H modeling to simulate flood conditions, identify elevations that provide effective flood protection, and develop approaches to avoid downstream impacts.

Asset Identified for Road & Bridge Flood Mitigation

Asset	Location	Priority
US 1 in Cranston	Cranston	High
Route 114 Corridor	Providence	High
Newport Bridge	Newport	High

Road & Bridge Flood Mitigation Strategies Funding Strategy

Evacuation route mitigation solutions in Rhode Island can be supported by both federal and state transportation funding programs.

Benefits:

- Reduced damage to critical infrastructure
- Reduced economic loss
- Reduced risk to life and property
- Reduced risk to critical infrastructure
- Reduced risk to life and property

Economic Impacts:

Investing in flood-resilient roads and bridges generates significant economic returns through construction employment, reduced repair costs, and sustained commerce. Infrastructure investments create immediate jobs in engineering, construction, and materials supply while preserving long-term economic health and economic resilience from road closures. Maintaining accessible evacuation routes and RCOF bus services protects workforce mobility and business continuity. By avoiding repeated flood damage, Rhode Island can reduce its reconstruction costs while preserving its revenue from unimpacted commercial activity. These investments strengthen supply chains, support tourism, and enhance property values, demonstrating clear fiscal returns.

Chapter 5: Climate Adaptation & Resilience Solutions

Chapter 5 presents climate adaptation and resilience solutions organized into ten asset-based solution typologies aligned with the State's priority assets. Each solution outlines the key strategies, implementation steps, cost estimates, and a funding approach to guide successful implementation.

Chapter 6 Future Investment Strategy

Chapter 6: Future Investment Strategy

Funding Needs by Responsible Entity

The table below summarizes estimated funding requirements by the primary agency or organization responsible for implementing the Resilient Rhody 2025 Actions. Estimates reflect high-level, preliminary cost ranges associated with establishing programs, coordination mechanisms, data systems, and, where applicable, enabling infrastructure investment programs.

Responsible Entity	Number of Actions
RIDEM	1
CRMC, RIDEM	1
CRMC, RIEMA, RIDEM	1
RIDEM, Resilience EC4 Subgroup	1
Div. of Statewide Planning	1
DPUC, PUC, OER, and URMMS	1
WRB, RIDOH	1
RIDEM, WRB	1
RIEMA, RIDEM, RI Div. of Statewide Planning	1
Commerce	1
RIIB, RIDEM	1
RIDOH, EDHHS	1
OER	1
RIIB	1
RIEMA	1
Other State Agencies/Partnerships	2
Total	16

Drinking Water & Reservoir Resilience

Drinking water and reservoir resilience strategies are focused on reducing flooding and extreme heat impacts to Rhode Island's drinking water reservoirs, ensuring both quantity and quality of potable water. Strategies include restoring vegetated riparian buffers, enhancing existing emergency spillways, improving embankment, and building a desalination plant. Refer to Chapter 5: Climate Adaptation & Resilience Solutions for full strategy descriptions and cost estimates.

Primary Funding Mechanisms:

- RIIB Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) – Spillway upgrades, watershed management, treatment protection, embankment reinforcement; possible principal forgiveness for disadvantaged communities.
- NOAA Coastal Resilience Grants – For coastal-influenced reservoir areas needing nature-based buffers.
- Rhode Island Voter-Approved Green Bonds – Capital investments for watershed protection, embankment reinforcement, and emergency spillway enhancements at publicly owned drinking water reservoirs.

Funding Approach

- Use DWSRF for all engineered components (spillways, embankments, structural protection).
- Pair with NOAA for watershed or shoreline stabilization and nature-based water-quality protection.
- Pursue early engineering reports with RIIB technical assistance.
- Use match-eligible watershed partners (universities, NGOs) for NOAA co-applications.
- Use Rhode Island voter-approved Green Bonds to fund capital reservoir and watershed resilience investments and to provide required non-federal match for complementary federal programs.
- Establish Drinking Water Resiliency Fund.

State Role

- Provide guidance on DWSRF project eligibility and support completion of preliminary engineering reports.
- Help identify opportunities for principal forgiveness for disadvantaged communities.
- Coordinate with CRMC to provide consistency determinations for coastal-influenced reservoirs.
- Provide technical data on algal blooms, runoff pollution, and saltwater intrusion risks.

Chapter 6: Future Investment Strategy

Chapter 6 provides a framework for identifying and securing funding to implement both the Resilient Rhody 2025 Actions outlined in Chapter 2 and the Climate Adaptation & Resilience solutions detailed in Chapter 5. For the Actions, the chapter summarizes funding and implementation needs by responsible entity and asset type. For the Solutions, each includes potential funding mechanisms, the recommended funding approach, and the role the State should play in supporting implementation.

Chapter Summaries

Chapter 7 Funding & Financing Mechanisms Inventory

Funding Source

Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank

Description
The Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank manages a suite of funding programs that support municipal resilience, energy efficiency, stormwater management, and climate adaptation. RIB provides low-cost loans, grants, and technical assistance to municipalities, quasi-public agencies, businesses, and nonprofit partners to support projects that improve water and wastewater systems, transportation infrastructure, stormwater management, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate resilience. By leveraging public and private capital, RIB helps communities modernize critical infrastructure, reduce long-term costs, and advance statewide environmental and resilience goals.

Programs
Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund (RRIF)
Administered by Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIB) in coordination with EC4 agencies
Scale: State revolving loan fund; Range: financing terms vary by project type

The Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund (RRIF) is a dedicated state revolving fund established to provide low-cost financing for infrastructure projects that reduce Rhode Island's vulnerability to climate impacts. The fund supports investments aligned with the state's Resilient Rhody climate resilience strategy, including upgrades that address flooding, stormwater management, coastal hazards, and other climate-driven risks to public infrastructure and community assets.

Funding Notes: RRIF was capitalized through state appropriations dedicated to implementing Resilient Rhody. As a revolving fund, its long-term viability depends on continued loan repayment and periodic state deposits.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
Co-Administered by Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIB) and Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management
Scale: Federal funds, Congressionally allocated; 20% state match; Range: \$500K - \$5M

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) is a federal-state partnership program that provides low-interest loans and other financial assistance for water quality protection and infrastructure improvements. The CWSRF is one of the nation's primary tools for financing wastewater treatment plants, stormwater management systems, nonpoint source pollution control, water reuse, and green infrastructure projects. Funding can also support estuary restoration, septic system replacements, and energy or water efficiency upgrades of water facilities.

Funding Notes: Delivered over \$75 million in low-cost financing in 2024 alone, supporting critical wastewater and stormwater infrastructure upgrades, advancing climate resilience, and improving water quality.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
Co-Administered by RIB and Rhode Island Dept. of Health (RIDOH)
Scale: Federal funds, Congressionally allocated; 20% state match; Range: \$1M - \$5M

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is a federal-state partnership that provides low- or no-interest loans to public water systems to finance projects that improve drinking water infrastructure and protect public health. Eligible applicants include community water systems—both publicly and privately owned—as well as nonprofit non-community water systems such as schools and churches.

Funding Notes: In FY 2024, seven new loans totaling \$73.2 million were provided for low-interest financing of critical infrastructure improvements.

Relevant Hazards

- Coastal Flooding
- Stormwater
- Water Resources
- AI Critical Infrastructure
- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts
- Building Design & Construction

Relevant Categories

- Water Resources
- AI Critical Infrastructure
- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts
- Building Design & Construction

Asset Types

- Beaches & Barriers
- Coastal Wetlands
- Drinking Water
- Stormwater
- Wastewater
- Water Resources
- AI Critical Infrastructure
- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts
- Building Design & Construction

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- State agencies
- Regional and conservation organizations
- Tribal governments
- School districts

Chapter 7: Funding & Financing Mechanisms Inventory

Chapter 7 provides an inventory of resilience funding and financing sources and mechanisms. Each funding source includes details on program administration, scale, and eligible activities. A side panel identifies relevant hazards, asset types, and eligible applicants.

Chapter 8 Prioritization Framework

Asset Prioritization Framework

This framework is designed to systematically evaluate diverse asset types and identify those that should be prioritized for intervention. Stakeholders can start by identifying vulnerable assets using the Asset Prioritization Framework, which is applicable across sectors and helps identify assets for which resilience projects that could deliver the greatest benefits.

Criteria	Low	Medium	High
11 Life Safety	Assets that do not directly impact life safety.	Assets that have a moderate impact on life safety.	Assets that have a high impact on life safety.
12 Urgency	Assets that do not require immediate attention.	Assets that require attention in the near future.	Assets that require immediate attention.
13 Criticality	Assets that are not critical to the community's well-being.	Assets that are moderately critical to the community's well-being.	Assets that are highly critical to the community's well-being.
14 Resiliency	Assets that are not resilient to climate impacts.	Assets that have moderate resilience to climate impacts.	Assets that are highly resilient to climate impacts.
15 Number of People Impacted	Assets that impact a small number of people.	Assets that impact a moderate number of people.	Assets that impact a large number of people.

Project Prioritization Framework

This framework is designed to systematically evaluate projects that have been identified. Stakeholders can use the Project Prioritization Framework to assess and rank these projects based on feasibility, impact, and alignment with statewide resilience goals. The process helps determine which projects should advance first, resulting in a prioritized list of projects that can guide investment decisions and inform the next phase of implementation.

Criteria	Low	Medium	High
16 Feasibility	Projects that are not feasible due to high costs or technical challenges.	Projects that are moderately feasible.	Projects that are highly feasible.
17 Impact	Projects that have a low impact on the community.	Projects that have a moderate impact on the community.	Projects that have a high impact on the community.
18 Alignment	Projects that do not align with statewide resilience goals.	Projects that align moderately with statewide resilience goals.	Projects that align highly with statewide resilience goals.

Chapter 8: Prioritization Framework

Chapter 8 outlines both the Asset and Project Prioritization Frameworks. The Asset Prioritization Framework was used to identify and prioritize the assets included in this Plan and is intended to be replicated when assessing additional assets in the future. The Project Prioritization Framework is designed to guide the prioritization of projects once they have been identified.

Chapter 9 Resilience Best Practices

Best Practice #6 Nature-Based Cooling Strategies in Heat-Vulnerable Communities

Description
Expanding nature-based cooling strategies in heat-vulnerable EJ communities reduces extreme heat risks through solutions like urban forests, green roofs, shaded rest areas, and resilience hubs. These interventions lower temperatures, improve public health, and deliver co-benefits such as air quality improvements, energy savings, and community engagement.

Relevant Hazards
Heat

Relevant Actions
Action #12.03: Supports urban tree planting and master planning.
Action #18.03: Resilience hubs provide cooling and shelter during heat waves.
Action #18.06: Expands the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LHEAP) program.

Ideas for RI
- Create model zoning language to require nature-based cooling (e.g., shade trees, green roofs) in high-heat and traditionally redlined areas.
- Refine existing heat mass using public health data and the Universal Thermal Climate Index (UTCi) to prioritize investments in heat-vulnerable neighborhoods.
- Fund nature-based cooling projects in frontline communities using equity and health-informed criteria.
- Launch a fund for the creation of resilience hubs in Rhode Island communities.

Green Corridors
Location: Medellín, Colombia
Scale: Local
Since 2016, the city has planted 8,000+ trees to create shaded green corridors along 30 major roadways and waterways to address growing concerns of extreme heat and air pollution.
Outcome: Transformed 20 km of roads and waterways into vegetated corridors, lowering average air temperature by 3.5°C and surface temperature by up to 10°C, generated 75 permanent green jobs, and reduced morbidity rate from acute respiratory infections.
Takeaway for RI: Tree corridors in heat-prone neighborhoods reduce urban heat and improve walkability and air quality.

Green Roofs
Location: New York City, New York, USA
Scale: Local
Launched in 2008 and renewed in 2024, the Green Roof Tax Abatement offers property tax breaks to incentivize the incorporation of green roofs to reduce urban heat, improve air quality, enhance energy efficiency, and provide urban habitat. New York City also adopted L12/24 that require green roofs on PV or many new roofs.
Outcome: NYC now has over 730 green roofs (as of 2022), which reduce rooftop temperatures by up to 30-40°F, and help cut building cooling costs by 20-30%.
Takeaway for RI: Tax breaks and other financial subsidies can incentivize property owners to construct cooling strategies on their property, such as green roofs.

Cool Pavements
Location: Pacoima, California, USA
Scale: Local
Municipal Pilot project that applied high-albedo cool pavement coatings across 700,000 SF of streets in a heat-vulnerable, low-income neighborhood, aimed of reducing surface and ambient temperatures in underserved communities.
Outcome: Reduced surface temperatures by up to 3.5°F during extreme heat events, demonstrating measurable cooling benefits in a historically underserved neighborhood.
Takeaway for RI: Cool pavements in heat-vulnerable, low-canopy areas offer scalable, low-cost cooling and complement green infrastructure.

Chapter 9: Resilience Best Practices

Chapter 9 presents 12 best practices for advancing climate resilience. Each best practice is supported by case studies demonstrating how it has been implemented. Relevant hazards, corresponding Resilient Rhody 2025 Actions, and key takeaways for Rhode Island are highlighted for each best practice.



Assumptions and Qualifications

Data & Information

This report relies on information provided by others to determine current and future climate conditions for hazard and risk assessment and to develop resilience solutions. Arup does not accept responsibility for the content, including the accuracy and completeness, of such information. Arup emphasizes that the forward-looking projections, forecasts, or estimates, are based upon interpretations or assessments of available information at the time of this project.

Priority Assets, Resilience Strategies & Jurisdiction

The current and future natural hazard exposure and risk of any site is dependent on many factors beyond Arup's control, including uncertainties around existing project sites and their construction details, natural hazards, and climate change.

Any climate resilience strategy includes potential residual risks. The resilience solutions described in this report are not guaranteed nor intended to eliminate all climate risk but are intended to be a tool to reduce climate-related damage and/or disruption. Arup shall not be responsible for damages or impacts associated with the performance of the climate resilience systems.

The realization of the prospective risks is dependent upon the continued validity of the assumptions on which it is based. Actual events frequently do not occur as expected, and the differences may be material. For this reason, Arup bears no responsibility for the realization of any projection, forecast, opinion or estimate. Findings are time-sensitive and relevant only to current conditions at the time of writing.

This plan does not confirm the feasibility or effectiveness of the strategies outlined as they relate to the designated Priority Assets. It provides a framework of specific steps to advance the proposed solutions from initial identification through to potential implementation. All proposed strategies require comprehensive due diligence, stakeholder engagement, detailed planning, design, and costing for each strategy and location identified.

Actions and strategies outlined in this plan may fall under municipal rather than state jurisdiction. Therefore, successful implementation of these actions may require local participation and coordination.

Costing

Cost estimates for each solution type are categorized as Class 5 based on the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering International (AACEi) cost estimate classification matrix based on indicative scope and benchmark projects.

The accuracy range for these class 5 cost estimates are assumed to be +100% / -50%.

Benchmark projects are sourced from desktop research and Arup's internal database. Benchmark costs are normalized to Rhode Island cost basis using location factors from RS Means. Benchmark costs are escalated to 2025 cost basis using the Construction Cost Index (CCI) from Engineering News Record (ENR).

Scope assumptions are made based on benchmark projects, proposed scope to be included, and sized relative to other strategies considering possible size of potential future projects. Parametric costing (utilizing a defined quantity and unit rate) is employed where possible. Allowances are estimated to account for scope intended to be included in the project when sufficient detail or context for parametric costing was not available.

Costs for actual projects will vary based on a variety of factors including but not limited to defined extent of scope, project-specific risks, site constraints, environmental scope, construction delivery method, stakeholder engagement, funding mechanisms, existing asset operations and potential downtime, and/or market factors.

Funding

Funding sources were identified in Summer 2025 and represent a point in time assessment. This plan does not guarantee the availability, continuation, or applicability of these sources.

All funding sources should be verified for current availability and applicability before pursuing them.

Due to changing federal priorities in both policy and funding, agencies across state government have been facing challenges in program implementation. As these changes impact agency resources including the state budget, timelines and commitments will shift, as necessary.





Glossary of Acronyms

Federal Agencies and Programs

CDC: Centers for Disease Control

DOD: Department of Defense

- DCIP: Defense Community Infrastructure Program
- OLDCC: Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation

DOE: Department of Energy

- SEP: State Energy Program

DOT: Department of Transportation

- FHWA: Federal Highway Administration
- MARAD: Maritime Administration

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

- SNEP: Southeast New England Program

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency

- NFIP: National Flood Insurance Program
- FIRM: Flood Insurance Rate Map
- PAPPG: Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide

NOAA: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

- CELCP: Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Plan

NPS: National Park Service

USACE: United States Army Corps of Engineers

USDA: United States Department of Agriculture

USFS: United States Forest Service

- NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service

USFWS: United States Fish & Wildlife Service

USGS: United States Geological Survey

- 3DEP: 3D Elevation Program

Federal Funding Sources

BRACE: Building Resilience Against Climate Effects

BRIC: Building Resilience in Communities Grant Program

CAP: Continuing Authorities Program

CDBG: Community Development Block Grant

CMAQ: Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program

CRSCI: Climate-Ready States & Cities Initiative

CSP: Conservation Stewardship Program

CZM: Coastal Zone Management Program & Grants

ELP: Environmental Literacy Program

EPMG: Emergency Management Performance Grant

EPSCoR: Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EWP: Emergency Watershed Protection Program

FMA: Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program

HPF: Historic Preservation Fund

IJA: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

IRA: Inflation Reduction Act

LIHEAP: US Department of Health and Human Services Low Income Energy Assistance Program

NBEP: Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

NCRF: National Coastal Resilience Fund

NCWCG: National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants

NDSP: National Dam Safety Program

NEP: National Estuary Program

NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service Incentives

PRO Housing Grant Program: Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing Grant Program

PROTECT: Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, & Cost-saving Transportation Program

REAP: Rural Energy for America Program

REPI: Readiness & Environmental Protection Integration Program

RISG: Rhode Island Sea Grant Program

SOAR: SNEP Opportunity to Advance Resilience

SWIG: SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants

WFIA: Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act

WCPP: Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program

WPDG: Wetland Program Development Grants

State Agencies and Programs

CRMC: Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council

- **CEHRTF:** Coastal & Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund

DBR: Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation

DHS: Rhode Island Department of Human Services

EC4: Rhode Island Executive Climate Change Coordinating Program

EOHHS: Rhode Island Executive Office of Health & Human Services

HEZ: Health Equity Zones

OER: Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources

- **SESP:** State Energy Security Plan

RIDE: Rhode Island Department of Education

- **CTE:** Career and Technical Education

IDEM: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

- **CRO:** Chief Resilience Officer
- **RISDISM:** Stormwater Management, Design, & Installation Rules

RIDLTL: Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training

RIEMA: Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency

RIGIS: Rhode Island Geographic Information Systems

RIIB: Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank

- **SPA:** Stormwater Project Accelerator

RIDOH: Rhode Island Department of Health

- **RIWARN:** Rhode Island Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network

RIDOT: Rhode Island Department of Health

- **CIP:** RIDOT Capital Improvement Program

State Agencies and Programs

RIPDES: Rhode Island Pollution Discharge Elimination System

STIP: Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

IRA: Inflation Reduction Act

WRB: Water Resources Board

State Funding Sources

OER: Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources

- **REF:** Renewable Energy Fund
- **RGGI:** Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

RIDEM: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

- **CRF:** Rhode Island Climate Resilience Fund
- **OSCAR:** Ocean State Adaptation and Resilience
- **WWTRF:** Wastewater Treatment Facility Resilience Fund

RIIB: Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank

- **C-PACE:** Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy
- **CPAF:** Community Project Assistance Fund
- **CSSLP:** Community Septic System Loan Program
- **CWSRF:** Clean Water State Revolving Fund
- **DWSRF:** Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
- **EBF:** Efficient Building Fund
- **MIGP:** Municipal Infrastructure Grant Program
- **MRP:** Municipal Resilience Program
- **MRBRF:** Municipal Road & Bridge Revolving Loan Fund
- **RRIF:** Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund

Schools

CCRI: Community College of Rhode Island

RIC: Rhode Island College

RISD: Rhode Island School of Design

URI: University of Rhode Island

Data and Modeling Sources

ASCE: American Society of Civil Engineers

GDDP: NASA Earth Exchange Global Daily Downscaled Projections

HAZUS: Hazards United States

HEC-RAS: Hydrologic Engineering Center–River Analysis System

IPCC AR6: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report

MarshRAM: Statewide Coastal Rapid Assessment Method

NRCC: Northeast Regional Climate Center

RI-CHAMP: Rhode Island Coastal Hazards Modeling and Prediction

SVI: Social Vulnerability Index

SWMM: EPA Stormwater Management Model

UTCI: Universal Thermal Climate Index

Data and Modeling Sources (cont.)

URI EDC: University of Rhode Island Environmental Data Center

SewerGEMS: Sewer Geospatial Engineering Modeling System

SLAMM: Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model Maps

Other

AACEI: Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering International

APA: American Planning Association

ARCCA: California Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation

BIPC: Block Island Power Center

CCO: University of Oregon Climate Change in Oregon Data Portal

CFROD: Boston Coastal Flood Resilience Overlay District

CIG: University of Washington Climate Impacts Group Data Hub

CRO: Norfolk Coastal Resilience Overlay Zone Update

CRRA: New York Community Risk and Resiliency Act

CSCI: The Climate Smart Communities Initiative

DEEP: Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Climate Resilience Fund

DEP: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Blue Acres

EAP: Emergency Action Plan

ETAA: Illinois Energy Transition Assistance Act

FMPRA: California Floodplain Management, Protection, & Risk Awareness Grant Program

FTE: Full-Time Equivalent

GLISA: University of Michigan Great Lakes Integrated Sciences & Assessments

HEZ: Health Equity Zone

IBC: International Building Code

IBHS: Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety

ISR: Infrastructure, Safety, and Reliability Filings

MVP: Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

NCCF: North Carolina Coastal Federation

NCRF: National Coastal Resilience Fund

NEIWPC: New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission*

NFWF: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

NBC: Narragansett Bay Commission

NRDC: Natural Resources Defense Council

NYSARP: New York State Adaptation & Resilience Plan

PPL: Project Priority List

RIE: Rhode Island Energy

RMAT: Resilient Massachusetts Action Team Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool

SCV: Statewide Climate Vulnerability Assessment

SEA Streets: Street Edge Alternatives



Glossary of Technical Terms

Key Terms

Climate Resilience The capacity of individuals, institutions, businesses, and natural systems within Rhode Island to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what chronic stresses and weather events they experience. While the effects of climate change are felt across the state, these impacts are not equally distributed. Effective climate resilience requires a focus on environmental justice and equity to support local leadership for sustained interaction between community, business, and government.

Adaptive Capacity The ability of a community, agency, or system to adjust its practices and use its resources, including redundancies, to respond effectively to change.

Climate Mitigation Reducing emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Engineering Terms

BFE: Base Flood Elevation Water surface elevation resulting from the flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

CSO: Combined Sewer Overflows A sewer system that collects rainwater runoff, domestic sewage, and industrial wastewater into one pipe.

EUL: End of Useful Life The point at which an asset can no longer safely, effectively, or economically perform its intended function.

GSI: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Infrastructure that uses natural processes such as filtration, infiltration, and evapotranspiration to treat stormwater where it falls.

HRU: Hydrologic Response Unit Areas of common physical characteristics that are expected to respond to precipitation and weather events in a similar way.

I/I: Infiltration/Inflow Sources Sources of water other than domestic wastewater that enters sanitary sewer systems.

LIDAR: Light Detection and Ranging A remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges to the Earth and generate information about the Earth's shape and surface.

MHHW: Mean Higher High Water The average of the higher of the two daily tides observed over a 19-year period.

Nbs: Nature-based Solutions Infrastructure projects that intentionally use natural and nature-based habitats and processes to reduce risks and deliver multiple benefits.

PER: Preliminary Engineering Report A technical planning document that assesses the viability, cost, and environmental impact of a proposed project before final design.

ROW: Right-of-Way A legal right granted to pass through or use another person's land for a specific purpose, such as transportation, utilities, or access to support essential infrastructure.

SCP: Stormwater Control Plan A regulated document outlining site-specific strategies and best management practices to control, treat, and minimize pollutants in stormwater runoff.

SLR: Sea Level Rise An increase in the total volume of ocean water over time, driven in part by melting glaciers and polar ice sheets.

SSO: Sanitary Sewer Overflow A release of untreated or partially treated sewage from a municipal sanitary sewer.

STU: Stormwater Treatment Unit Infrastructure that improves stormwater runoff quality, reduces runoff volume, and/or reduces runoff peak flow.

TMDL: Total Maximum Daily Load The maximum amount of a pollutant a waterbody can receive while still meeting water quality standards, along with the pollutant reduction targets assigned to its sources.

WWTF: Wastewater Treatment Facility Facilities that remove contaminants from sewage and wastewater.

Planning & Policy Terms

ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act A federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities.

CBO: Community-Based Organization A nonprofit that represents its community and provides educational or related services.

CBP3: Community-Based Public-Private Partnership A partnership between a local government and a private entity with the goal of providing cost-effective, high-quality services.

CCMP: Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans Document that establishes priorities for activities, research, and funding for the Narragansett Bay Estuary.

EJ: Environmental Justice The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

GJZ: Green Justice Zone Areas that face a legacy of public health burdens, environmental degradation, and socioeconomic stressors, but are prioritized for resources and support at a variety of levels to implement community-based solutions to achieve change.

MPO: Metropolitan Planning Organization An agency created by federal law to provide local elected officials input into the planning and implementation of federal transportation funds to metropolitan areas with populations of greater than 50,000.

NOFO: Notice of Funding Opportunity A publicly available document by which a Federal Agency makes known its intentions to award discretionary grants or cooperative agreements.

RCP: Representative Concentration Pathways Plausible future scenarios of carbon dioxide emissions and possible reductions in atmospheric concentration.

RFP: Request for Proposals A solicitation method which communicates the government's requirements and requests proposals.

RLF: Resilience Loan Fund A specialized financing mechanism designed to provide loans and capital to fund projects that build resilience to natural hazards.

SAMP: Special Area Management Plan A plan used to collect and examine data, identify potential development trends and anticipates conflicts between different uses. In coastal areas.

SSP: Shared Socioeconomic Pathways A set of narratives describing possible future development pathways in relation to its use of fossil fuels and the social and economic factors which drive fossil fuel use.

SSP2-4.5: Intermediate Emissions Scenario where carbon dioxide emissions continue around current levels until 2050, then decrease but do not reach net zero by 2100.

SSP5-8.5: Very High Emissions Scenario characterized by continued growth in carbon dioxide emissions throughout the 21st century, driven by heavy reliance on fossil fuels, with emissions increasing substantially by 2100.

TAP: Technical Assistance Package A support mechanism funded by potentially responsible parties that enables community groups to retain the services of an independent technical advisor.

TDR: Transfer of Development Rights The transfer of development rights from land in a sending area to land in designated receiving areas.

TIF: Tax Increment Financing A value capture tool that uses taxes on future gains in real estate values to pay for new infrastructure.

WUI: Wildland-Urban Interface: The zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development.

