

EXECUTIVE CLIMATE CHANGE  
COORDINATING COUNCIL  
ADVISORY BOARD

JANUARY 27, 2021

# Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Review of December 15, 2020 Minutes
- Election of Vice Chair
- News from the RIEC4
- Discussion of Advisory Board Responsibilities
- Discussion of State Climate Justice Priorities
- Other Business
- Announcements
- Future Meetings
- Public Comment
- Adjourn

# EC4 ADVISORY BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

The EC4 Advisory Board shall have the following purposes and duties:

- Advise the council 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;
- Assist the council in improving public access to, and understanding of, the best available scientific, technical, and other information about climate change, mitigation, adaptation, etc., so as to build public support for, and participation in, initiatives to make communities more resilient;
- Serve as a conduit for communicating information from the council to communities and constituencies, as well as vice versa, for input from the community level to the council;
- Assist the council in meeting its own transparency and accountability obligations;
- Report to the council at each regular council meeting; and
- Prepare an annual report, to be included in the annual report of the council, that specifically addresses the state of public awareness and engagement; the effectiveness of mitigation, adaptation and public information programs from the community perspective; the ability of the council to attain its goals and objectives, including effective interagency coordination and public-private partnerships; and actions that would further the purposes of the council and this legislation.

# DISCUSSION

# CLIMATE JUSTICE PRIORITIES

# RHODE ISLAND DRAFT CLIMATE JUSTICE PRIORITIES FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Conduct a gap analysis

2. Prioritize and improve public engagement and input throughout development and decision-making process

3. Create and/or improve access to programs, resources and information

4. Mitigate and remove burdens from EJ communities

# I. CONDUCT A GAP ANALYSIS OF STATEWIDE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

## Example related goals:

- Informed by community engagement
- Qualitative and quantitative comprehensive equity assessment of programs
- Include metrics (e.g., grant funds awarded to environmental justice communities)
- Define environmental justice and develop statewide environmental justice policy, defining environmental justice communities, benefits, and burdens (aligned with federal definitions/restrictions)
- **What else?**

## 2. PRIORITIZE AND IMPROVE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGHOUT DEVELOPMENT & DECISION MAKING

### Example related goals:

- Compensate community members for their engagement
- Provide free child-care and/or transportation during community listening sessions and public input meetings
- Even after COVID, consider continuing to live stream public meetings and enable remote public comment
- Attend and present at community meetings and/or host workshops at community groups
- Hold regular environmental justice listening sessions with community members and leaders from our overburdened communities
- Engage advisory boards: RIPTA Passengers Advisory Board, TCI Equity Advisory Board, DPUC Ratepayer Advisory Board, National Grid/OER Income-Eligible Energy Efficiency Advisory Board, EC4 Advisory Board
- In EC4 annual report, include environmental justice section
- **What else?**

### 3. IMPROVE ACCESS TO PROGRAMS, RESOURCES & INFORMATION

#### Example related goals:

- Analyze existing programs to promote increased access to environmental communities
- Coordinate across agencies to connect Rhode Islanders with comprehensive resources across state government (i.e. broad comprehensive resource document with personal contacts at state agencies; think about how we can plug resources into 211 and/or validate info)
- Create new initiatives that serve environmental justice communities
- Improve outreach and sharing information (includes ensuring all public documents and/or websites are translated); translation opportunities to provide public input (consider Google Translate resource or other state translation program)
- Short-term: secure stable translation services
- Expand translation opportunities to provide public input
- Improve public access and transportation to shores, parks, state offices
- Forge community partnerships with EJ communities
- Identify a climate justice point of contact at each agency
- Expand hours of operations
- Create a climate justice webpage on [climatechange.ri.gov](http://climatechange.ri.gov)
- Educating people about channels for involvement and engagement
- **What else?**

## 4. MITIGATE & REMOVE BURDENS FROM EJ COMMUNITIES

### Example related goals:

- Identify burdens for environmental justice communities
- Consider unique needs of environmental justice communities in statewide grant programs
- Create new programs specifically targeted to serve environmental justice communities
- Reduce local emissions in environmental justice communities
- Create maps of environmental justice areas
- Address cost inequities in services
- Screen new initiatives through an environmental justice lens
- Coordinate efforts with our Health Equity Zones (HEZs)
- **What else?**

# TIMELINE

## December 2020

- Begin review of climate justice priorities outline

## June 2021

- Present initial findings to the EC4

## September 2021

- Present final findings and recommendations to EC4

## Jan-June 2021

- Continue review, stakeholder engagement

## August 2021

- Continue review, stakeholder engagement

# FRAMING EC4 ADVISORY BOARD REVIEW

State government climate leaders have outlined a set of proposed priorities aiming to advance a coordinated climate justice approach to our work, emphasizing equity and access for all Rhode Islanders. We are requesting the EC4 Advisory Board's assistance to review this outline and recommend improvements.

## Objectives of EC4 Advisory Board Review

- Review proposed climate justice priorities outline
- Provide feedback on outline: Do these priorities effectively work to advance climate justice?
- Are these priorities framed correctly? Is this the appropriate language?
- Identify priorities to add or remove
- Engage stakeholders throughout review and incorporate their perspective in findings
- Develop guidelines for community engagement best practices
- Advise on next steps regarding priorities

# DISCUSSION

# OTHER BUSINESS

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

# FUTURE MEETINGS

LAST WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH 10:30-NOON

February 24

March 31

April 28

May 26

June 30

July 28

August 25

September 29

October 27

November/December - TBD

Meeting materials will be posted  
on the EC4 Advisory Board webpage

[climatechange.ri.gov/state-actions/ec4/ec4-council/advisory-board.php](https://climatechange.ri.gov/state-actions/ec4/ec4-council/advisory-board.php)

# PUBLIC COMMENT

- PLEASE TYPE COMMENTS IN THE CHAT -