

EC4 ADVISORY BOARD

REPORT TO EC4
JUNE 3, 2021

EC4 Advisory Board Membership

Tim Sweeney appointed by the Governor

Diane Williamson appointed by the Governor

Sue Mara appointed by the Governor

Rachel Calabro appointed by the Governor

Amy Rainone appointed by the House

David Caldwell Jr. appointed by the House

Pam Rubinoff appointment by the Senate

Kenneth Filarski appointment by the Senate

Elizabeth Catucci appointment by the Senate

Sheila Dormody appointment by the Senate

2 House vacancies, 1 Governor vacancy

EC4 ADVISORY BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

MEETINGS

LAST WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH 10:30-NOON

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.

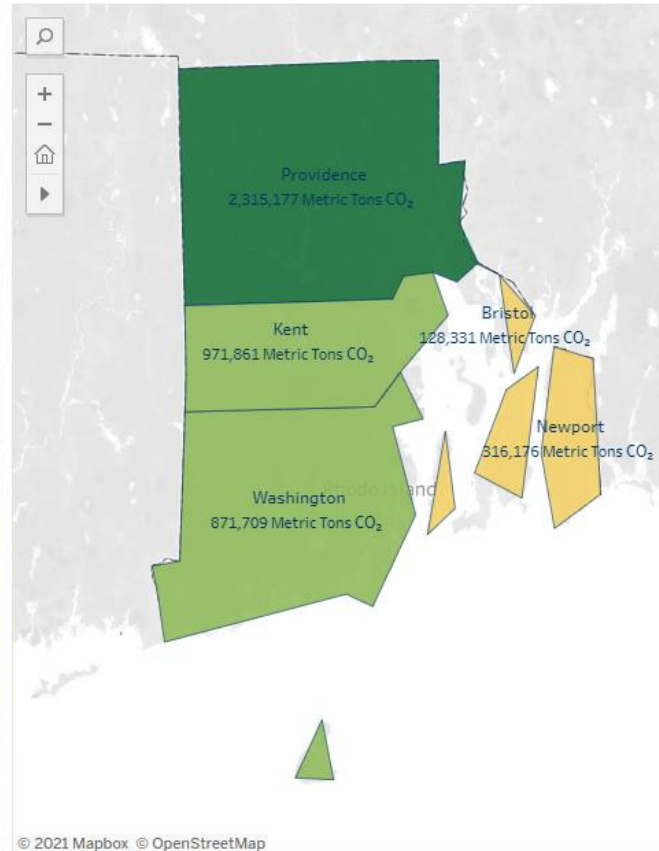
COMMUNICATING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

ACT ON CLIMATE.
#ActOnClimateRI



Transportation Emissions by County

Year: 2005

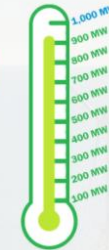


RI in the Fight Against Climate Change: A Snapshot

Rhode Island is working to combat climate change on many fronts, and this dashboard is designed to highlight a handful of key metrics.



CLEAN ENERGY



93%
toward the goal of increasing RI's clean energy tenfold by 2020

WHY IT MATTERS

A 400MW offshore wind farm can produce approximately one-quarter of all the electricity used by Rhode Islanders annually – without contributing to climate change through greenhouse gas emissions.

[Learn more](#)

EC4AB Future Priorities

- Continue review of Climate Justice Goals
- Review of dashboards for Act on Climate implementation
- Other Act on Climate Implementation
- Climate justice and anti-racism training
- Connect with other state climate programs (MRP, Tree Equity)
- Develop annual report

RHODE ISLAND
DRAFT
CLIMATE JUSTICE
PRIORITIES

FIRST DRAFT
STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY
RESULTS

Review of Proposed State Climate Justice Priorities

State government climate leaders have outlined a set of proposed priorities to advance a coordinated climate justice approach to their work, emphasizing equity and access for all Rhode Islanders.

The EC4 Advisory Board is surveying stakeholders to provide feedback on the outline.

For each of the four priorities:

- What would you add, change or remove related to those goals?

Overall questions:

- Are these 4 priorities the right ones to advance climate justice in Rhode Island? Would you add another one or edit/remove any of them?
- Do you have any recommendations about what first next steps the state should take to advance climate justice?
- Who else should be engaged in this review?
- Other comments?

RHODE ISLAND
CLIMATE JUSTICE
PRIORITIES
-DRAFT-



Conduct a gap analysis of statewide policies and programs



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



Create or improve access to programs, resources and information



Mitigate and remove burdens from environmental justice communities

Conduct a gap analysis of statewide policies and programs

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A gap analysis is an examination of the space between "where we are" (the present state) and "where we want to be."
By defining gaps, we can create a plan to address them.

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?

Prioritize and improve public engagement throughout development and 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?

Improve access to programs, resources, and 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
- Educating people about channels for involvement and engagement
- What else?

Mitigate and remove burdens from Environmental Justice 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?

Highlights of Ongoing Initiatives and Programs within Climate-related Agencies

This list is not comprehensive but a demonstration of efforts including grant programs, studies, and cross-agency collaborations aimed at addressing climate justice.

DEM

- Providence Port Green Justice Initiative
- Climate Resilience Fund
- Port of Providence Grant
- RI Truck Count & Assessment Study
- Air Toxics Community Scale Grant

OER

- Least Cost Procurement Standards
- Meetings with community organizers
- Low to Moderate Income Solar Working Group
- NEED curriculum for efficiency, health, and equity
- Energy Efficiency plans

Division of Statewide Planning

- Moving Forward 2040 (includes Transit Forward 2040, Bicycle Mobility Plan, Congestion Management Plan; incorporates Environmental Justice Analysis)
- Mobility Innovation Working Group

RIPTA

- Transit Forward RI 2040
- Title VI Equity Analysis for Service Changes
- Electric Bus Pilot Program

RIDOT

- Convert fleet to electric vehicles
- Convert streetlights to energy efficient LEDs
- Power roadside traffic monitoring devices with solar panels
- Improve access for pedestrians, bicyclists in road improvement projects

DPUC

- Low-income rate discount program
- Energy Efficiency Technical Working Group
- Ratepayer Advisory Board
- M/W/DBE utilization
- Replace leak-prone gas pipes and older water lines

RIIB

- Municipal Resilience Program
- Revolving loan fund programs
- Stormwater Project Accelerator
- Reduced interest for water projects in environmental justice communities

RIDOH

- Tree Equity Program
- Promote green infrastructure
- Health Equity Zones
- Track data with health equity measures
- Use mapping and data to highlight social, environmental, and health inequities
- Heat Watch Program

CRMC

- Urban Coastal Greenways

CLIMATE JUSTICE PRIORITIES REVIEW 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

July-August 2021

Continue review, stakeholder engagement

21 PEOPLE SURVEYED

YOUTH ORGANIZATION,
ENVIRONMENTAL
GROUPS, ENGINEERS,
MUNICIPAL LEADERS,
AFFORDABLE HOUSING
LEADERS, DEVELOPERS,
PLANNERS, FOOD AND
FISHERIES,
SUSTAINABILITY
LEADERS

7 Interviewers

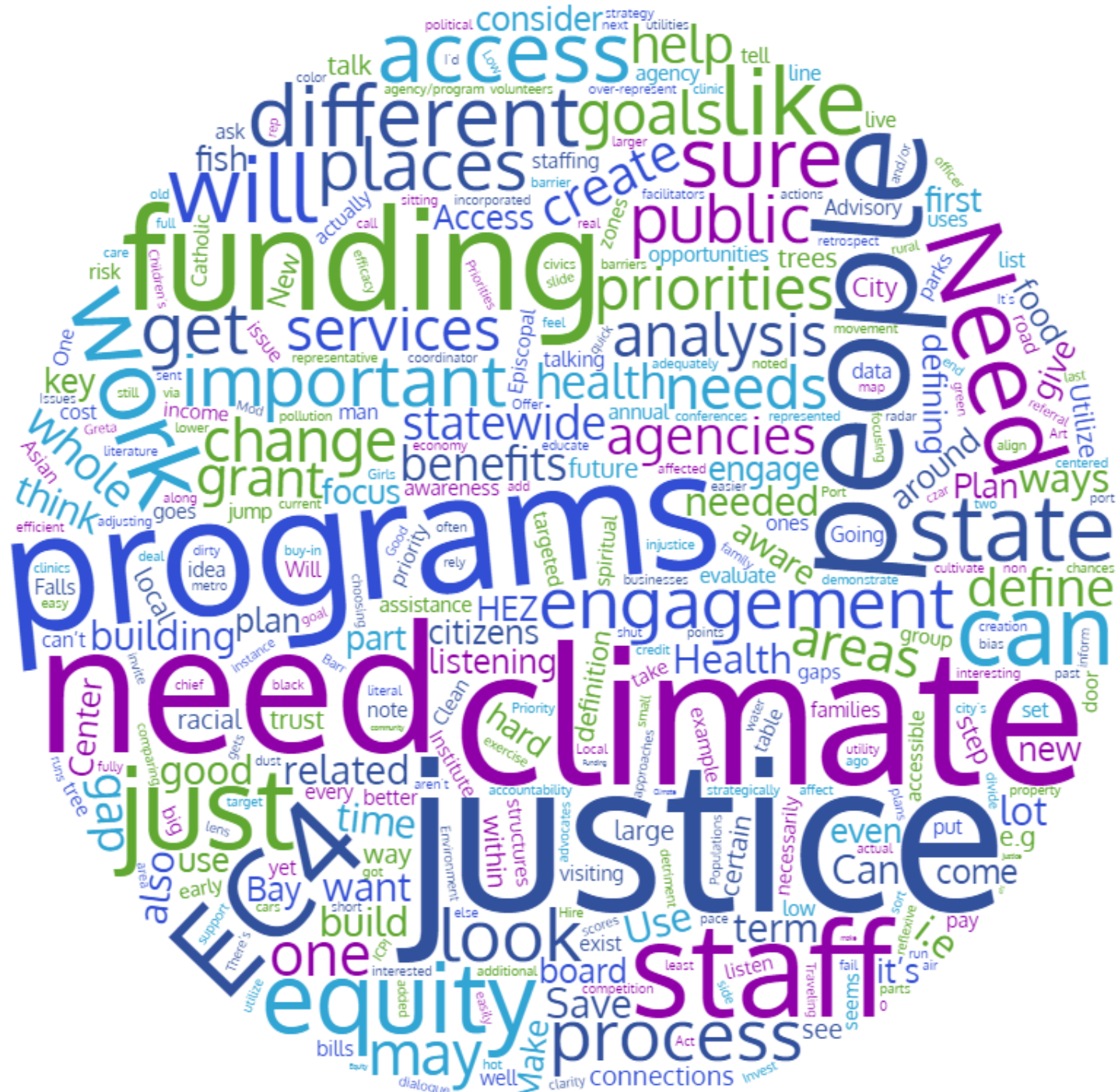
Interviewees:
2 women of color

12 white women

7 white men

INTERVIEWEE
RECOMMENDATIONS
OF ORGANIZATIONS
WHICH SHOULD BE
INCLUDED IN
REVIEWING THE
STATE'S CLIMATE
JUSTICE PRIORITIES

- Advocacy organizations (NAACP)
- Municipal leaders: League of Cities & Towns, local elected officials, boards and commissions (Newport Energy and Environment Commission, Providence ESTF), the American Planning Association RI Chapter
- Emergency management officials (RI Association of Emergency Managers, RIEMA, PEMA)
- RIPTA users, transit advocates, bike/ped advocates
- Housing justice groups, housing equity, homelessness advocates
- Organizations representing people with low-incomes and people of color (e.g., Progreso Latino)
- Trade/technical schools, environmental education groups
- Environmental justice community members across the state (REJC, Wiley Center, One Square World, Health Equity Zones)
- Youth organizations (Youth In Action, Movement Education Outdoors)
- Environmental organizations (New England Grassroots Environment Fund, WRWC, Save The Bay, Clean Ocean Access, Audubon, Save Bristol Harbor)
- Food sovereignty groups, food policy advocates, farmers
- Workforce development organizations (Groundwork RI)
- First nations
- Academic partners



EARLY THEMES

Provide clear definitions, values, acknowledgements and principles

Prioritize this work with staffing and training

Meet people where they are

Proceed at the pace of trust

Address cumulative impacts
Acknowledge and rectify

Representation matters on state boards and decision-making groups

Partner with community-based organizations and compensate them

Move toward collaborative governance with environmental justice communities

▶▶▶▶▶ INCREASED EFFICIENCY IN DECISION-MAKING AND SOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTATION ▶▶▶▶▶ EQUITY

STANCE TOWARDS COMMUNITY	0	1	2	3	4	5
	IGNORE	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	DEFER TO
IMPACT	Marginalization	Preparation or Placation	Limited Voice or Tokenization	Voice	Delegated Power	Community Ownership
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GOALS	Deny access to decision-making processes	Provide the community with relevant information	Gather input from the community	Ensure community needs and assets are integrated into process & inform planning	Ensure community capacity to play a leadership role in decision-making and the implementation of decisions.	Foster democratic participation and equity through community-driven decision-making; Bridge divide between community & governance
MESSAGE TO COMMUNITY	<i>Your voice, needs & interests do not matter</i>	<i>We will keep you informed</i>	<i>We care what you think</i>	<i>You are making us think, (and therefore act) differently about the issue</i>	<i>Your leadership and expertise are critical to how we address the issue</i>	<i>It's time to unlock collective power and capacity for transformative solutions</i>
ACTIVITIES	Closed door meeting Misinformation Systematic Disenfranchisement Voter suppression	Fact sheets Open Houses Presentations Billboards Videos	Public Comment Focus Groups Community Forums Surveys	Community organizing & advocacy Interactive workshops Polling Community forums Open Planning Forums with Citizen Polling	MOU's with Community-based organizations Citizen advisory committees Collaborative Data Analysis Co-Design and Co-Implementation of Solutions Collaborative Decision-Making	Community-driven planning and governance Consensus building Participatory action research Participatory budgeting Cooperative models
RESOURCE ALLOCATION RATIOS	100% Systems Admin	70-90% Systems Admin 10-30% Promotions and Publicity	60-80% Systems Admin 20-40% Consultation Activities	50-60% Systems Admin 40-50% Community Involvement	20-50% Systems Admin 50-70% Community Partners	80-100% Community partners and community-driven processes ideally generate new value and resources that can be invested in solutions

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Long term structural and systemic forces at play
- Limitations of the role of the Advisory Board
- Engage expertise needed to center marginalized communities most affected by climate injustice
- Advertise broadly for candidates to appoint to the Advisory Board
- Leverage federal investments and private resources
- Align within and across existing state programs to advance climate justice
- Apply the themes broadly across state government
- Mobilize at a scale adequate to the challenge