

STATUS	POLICY	POLICY AREA
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Targets 45% by 2030 80% by 2040 net-zero by 2050 Relative to 1990 levels Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHAPTER 42-6.2 - 2021 Act on Climate (2021) 	Climate Governan and Equit
✓ Enacted		
	Climate Action Plans 2022 Update to the 2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHAPTER 42-6.2 - 2021 Act on Climate (2021) 2022 Update to the 2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan (2022) 2025 Climate Action Strategy 	Climate Governan and Equit
✓ Enacted		
	State Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory The 1990-2022 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory was published in December 2024. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H 7904 - Resilient Rhode Island Act (2014) 1990-2022 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (2024) 	Climate Governan and Equit
✓ Enacted		
	Climate Bureaucracy Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H 7904 - Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014 (2014) CHAPTER 42-6.2 - 2021 Act on Climate (2021) Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) 	Climate Governan and Equit
✓ Enacted		

STATUS	POLICY	POLICY AREA
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Climate Advisory Bodies


Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) Advisory Board and EC4 Science and Technical Advisory Board

 Enacted	Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H 7904 - Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014 (2014) • CHAPTER 42-6.2 - 2021 Act on Climate (2021) • Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) Advisory Board • EC4 Science and Technical Advisory Board 	Climate Governance and Equity
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Environmental Rights Amendments


The Rhode Island Constitution states:






“The people shall continue to enjoy and freely exercise all the rights of fishery, and the privileges of the shore, to which they have been heretofore entitled under the charter and usages of this state, including but not limited to fishing from the shore, the gathering of seaweed, leaving the shore to swim in the sea and passage along the shore; and they shall be secure in their rights to the use and enjoyment of the natural resources of the state with due regard for the preservation of their values; and it shall be the duty of the general assembly to provide for the conservation of the air, land, water, plant, animal, mineral and other natural resources of the state, and to adopt all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment of the people of the state by providing adequate resource planning for the control and regulation of the use of the natural resources of the state and for the preservation, regeneration and restoration of the natural environment of the state.”



 Enacted	Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhode Island Const., Art. I, § 17 (1986) 	Climate Governance and Equity
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Environmental Justice Community Definitions





"Environmental Justice Focus Areas" are census tracts where the median household income is less than 65% of statewide median income; at least 40% of the population are minorities; at least 25% of households lack English proficiency; or at least 25% of the population are minorities and the municipality's median household income does not exceed 150% of statewide median income.

 Enacted	Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIDEM Environmental Justice Policy (2023) 	Climate Governance and Equity
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STATUS	POLICY	POLICY AREA
 Enacted	Environmental Justice Mapping Tools RIDEM Environmental Justice Area Map Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIDEM Environmental Justice Area Map (2023) 	Climate Governance and Equity
 Not Enacted	Environmental Justice Community Investment Requirements Environmental justice (EJ) community investment requirements help ensure communities most impacted by environmental burdens are benefitting equitably from public programs by requiring a certain percentage of funds and/or benefits from other policies are allocated to EJ communities.	Climate Governance and Equity
 Enacted	Environmental Justice Bureaucracy DEM – Climate Justice Specialist Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEM – Climate Justice Specialist 	Climate Governance and Equity
 In-Progress	Environmental Justice Advisory Bodies The Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) must create an Environmental Justice Committee. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC4 Environmental Justice Committee 	Climate Governance and Equity
 Not Enacted	Cumulative Impact Assessment Cumulative impact assessments determine the health and environmental impacts of renewing or granting a permit for certain pollution-generating facilities in environmental justice communities. Increased pollution burdens in communities may result in the permit application being denied.	Climate Governance and Equity

STATUS	POLICY	POLICY AREA
 Not Enacted	Just Transition Plans Just transition plans are documents that outline policies and recommendations aimed at supporting communities, workers, and industries affected by the transition away from fossil fuels. The plans often focus on workforce development and retraining, job creation, and economic diversification.	Climate Governance and Equity
	Just Transition Offices and Staff Just transition offices and staff assist workers and communities transitioning away from fossil fuel extraction and use, typically through retraining programs and support with relocation and economic diversification. Offices and staff also coordinate with other state agencies to effectively design policy to achieve a just transition.	Climate Governance and Equity
	Just Transition Advisory Bodies Just transition advisory bodies write or advise on a state's just transition plan or report, and make recommendations on ways to support affected workers, communities, and industries. The bodies can consist of all non-government members, or be a mix of government and non-government members.	Climate Governance and Equity
	Just Transition Funds Just transition funds support initiatives and investments aimed at facilitating the equitable transition of workers and communities affected by shifts in industries or policies that transition from fossil fuels.	Climate Governance and Equity
	Green Banks Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RI Gen. Laws § 46-12.2 (1989) Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank 	Cross-Sector
 Not Enacted	Divestment State divestment means ending new investment in the fossil fuel industry and phasing out existing fossil fuel investments in public funds, such as state pensions, over time. States can also set greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for their investment portfolios.	Cross-Sector

STATUS	POLICY	POLICY AREA
	Carbon Pollution Pricing The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) covers the electricity sector. Establishing Policies	
 Enacted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Pollution Control Regulation No. 46 (2022) Air Pollution Control Regulation No. 47 (2022) R.I. Gen. Laws 23-82.1-23-82-7 (2023) The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) 	Cross-Sector
	Social Cost of Carbon The social cost of carbon is a monetary estimate of the damage of each ton of greenhouse gases emitted. The social cost of carbon is used to quantify and monetize climate damages, representing the net economic cost of climate pollution to society.	Cross-Sector
 Not Enacted		
	Clean Energy and Renewable Portfolio Standards 100% renewable energy by 2033 Establishing Policies	Electricity
 Enacted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HB 7277A (2022) 	
	Electricity Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Targets Electricity greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets are set by a state to limit GHG emissions in the electricity sector. These targets aim to reduce emissions by different amounts over time, often expressed as percentage relative to a baseline year.	Electricity
 Not Enacted		
	Clean Energy Plans The Road to 100% Renewable Electricity by 2030 in Rhode Island Establishing Policies	Electricity
 Enacted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Order 20-01 (2020) The Road to 100% Renewable Electricity by 2030 in Rhode Island (2020) 	

STATUS	POLICY	POLICY AREA
 Enacted	Consolidated State Siting and Permitting Authority The Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB) is the licensing and permitting authority for all licenses required for siting, construction or alteration of a major energy facility (at least 40 MW) in Rhode Island. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Act (1986) 	Electricity
	Interconnection Standards Rhode Island received a C grade from Freeing the Grid. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeing the Grid Rhode Island Grade (2023) 	Electricity
	Enabling ATTs and GETs  Not Enacted Advanced transmission technologies (ATTs) and grid enhancing technologies (GETs) are a family of technologies that can enhance the capacity of the existing electrical transmission and distribution system. State policies that promote ATTs and GETs can be key to unlocking renewable energy development at lower cost and with shorter wait times.	Electricity
 Partially Enacted	Net Metering The State Policy Opportunity Tracker (SPOT) breaks clean energy policies down into “components”, which are binary questions to evaluate policy quality. Higher quality policies have more of their SPOT components fulfilled. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPOT - Net Metering in Rhode Island SPOT - Aggregate Net Metering in Rhode Island 	Electricity
	Policy Components  8/11	

STATUS

POLICY

POLICY AREA

Shared Renewables

The State Policy Opportunity Tracker (SPOT) breaks clean energy policies down into “components”, which are binary questions to evaluate policy quality. Higher quality policies have more of their SPOT components fulfilled.



Partially
Enacted

Establishing Policies

Electricity

- [SPOT - Shared Renewables in Rhode Island](#)

Policy Components



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Community Choice Aggregation

Rhode Island has an active community choice aggregation program.



Enacted

Establishing Policies

Electricity

- [HB 7786 \(2002\)](#)
- [HB 5536 \(2017\)](#)
- [SB 877 \(2017\)](#)

Distributed Generation Carve-out

The State Policy Opportunity Tracker (SPOT) breaks clean energy policies down into “components”, which are binary questions to evaluate policy quality. Higher quality policies have more of their SPOT components fulfilled.



Not
Enacted

Establishing Policies

Electricity

- [SPOT – Generation Carve-outs in Rhode Island](#)

Policy Components



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Energy Storage Targets

90 megawatts (MW) of energy storage by 2026, 195 MW by 2028 and 600 MW by 2033








Enacted

Establishing Policies

Electricity






- [S 2499 A \(2024\)](#)




STATUS	POLICY	POLICYA
 Not Enacted	Coal Phaseouts Coal phaseouts establish a target year by which states must end coal-fired power generation.	Electricity
 Not Enacted	Coal Plant Securitization Coal securitization is a financing tool that allows utility companies to refinance debt they issued to build coal plants and close the facilities early without taking a financial hit or passing costs on to ratepayers.	Electricity
 Enacted	Residential Energy Codes The statewide energy code for residential construction is 2018 IECC with amendments. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rhode Island State Energy Code (2021)• S 0855A (2023)	Buildings Efficiency
 Enacted	Commercial Energy Codes The statewide energy code for commercial building construction is 2018 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2016 with amendments. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rhode Island State Energy Code (2021)	Buildings Efficiency
 Enacted	Stretch Building Energy Codes The Rhode Island Stretch Codes are used on a voluntary basis for private and public building construction and renovation projects. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://energy.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur741/files/documents/leadbyexample/stretch-code/RI-Stretch-Code-Commercial_FINAL-2-16-18.pdf (2018)• Rhode Island Residential Stretch Code: A Voluntary Green Buildings Program (2018)	Buildings Efficiency








STATUS	POLICY	POLICY AREA
Appliance Standards		
Enacted	<p>The Energy and Water Efficiency Standards apply to 15 products.</p> <p>Establishing Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Appliance and Equipment Energy and Water Efficiency Standards Act of 2021 (S 0339A) (2021)Appliance and Equipment Efficiency Standards	Buildings Efficiency
Building Performance Standards		
Not Enacted	<p>Building performance standards establish energy and/or greenhouse gas performance targets for existing buildings in a state. These targets increase in stringency over time, leading to efficiency improvements in buildings to conserve energy and reduce emissions.</p>	Buildings Efficiency
Clean Heat Standards		
Not Enacted	<p>Clean heat standards establish a performance standard requiring heat providers to deliver a gradually-increasing percentage of low-emission heating services to customers.</p>	Buildings Efficiency
Energy Efficiency Resource Standards (EERS)		
Enacted	<p>Electric utilities are required to achieve total energy savings equivalent to 1,397,644 lifetime megawatt-hours (MWh) in 2024, 1,401,610 lifetime MWh in 2025, and 1,413,953 lifetime MWh in 2026.</p> <p>Gas utilities are required to achieve total energy savings equivalent to 7,058,839 lifetime million British thermal units (MMBtu) in 2024, 7,090,690 lifetime MMBtu in 2025, and 7,119,585 lifetime MMBtu in 2026.</p> <p>Establishing Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Docket No. 23-21-EE (2023)Recommended Targets for Energy Efficiency and Active Peak Demand Reduction Savings for 2024-2026 (2023)	Buildings Efficiency

STATUS	POLICY	POLICYA
 Enacted	Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Rhode Island has enacted commercial PACE-enabling legislation and has active programs. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 6019 Sub A (2013) 	Buildings Efficiency
	Weatherization Funding The State Policy Opportunity Tracker (SPOT) breaks clean energy policies down into “components”, which are binary questions to evaluate policy quality. Higher quality policies have more of their SPOT components fulfilled. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPOT - Weatherization Funding in Rhode Island Policy Components  2/4	Buildings Efficiency
 Not Enacted	All-Electric Buildings All-electric buildings policies require new buildings to be constructed with all-electric heating, cooling, and cooking systems to transition away from fossil-fuel use in buildings.	Buildings Efficiency
 Not Enacted	Thermal Energy Networks Thermal energy networks are neighborhood-scale energy projects that allow multiple buildings to be connected through a shared network of underground pipes to distribute heating and cooling, often using renewable energy sources like geothermal or waste heat. State policymakers can create an enabling regulatory structure, and may also commission pilots, allow cost recovery, or create mandates to help transition from natural gas.	Buildings Efficiency
 Enacted	Low-Emission Vehicle (LEV) Standards Rhode Island LEV Program Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250-RICR-120-05-37 (2023) 	Transport

STATUS	POLICY	POLICY AREA
 Enacted	Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Mandates Model Year (MY) 2027: 43% of new passenger vehicle sales are ZEVs MY 2030: 68% of new sales are ZEVs MY 2035: 100% of new sales are ZEVs, with up to 20% being hybrid or hydrogen-powered vehicles. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Clean Cars II (2023) • Advanced Clean Cars II Program 	Transportation
	Electric Vehicle Rebates The DRIVE EV project offers rebates for new and used EVs: up to \$1,500 for new battery and fuel cell electric vehicles, \$1,000 for new plug-in hybrid vehicles, and between \$750-1,000 for used EVs and plug-in hybrid vehicles. The DRIVE+ program offers an additional \$1,500 rebate for low-income applicants. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRIVE EV Project • DRIVE+ Program 	Transportation
	Low NOx Omnibus Rules The Low NOx Omnibus Rule applies to Model Year 2027 onwards. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-NOx Heavy Duty Omnibus (HDO) (2023) 	Transportation
	Medium- and Heavy-Duty (MHD) Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Mandates By 2035: 55% of Class 2b-3 truck sales are zero-emissions 75% of Class 4-8 straight truck sales are zero-emissions 40% of Class 7-8 tractor sales are zero-emissions. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Clean Trucks Rule (2023) • Advanced Clean Trucks Program 	Transportation



STATUS	POLICY	POLICYA
 Not Enacted	Medium- and Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebates Medium- and heavy-duty (MHD) electric vehicle rebates consist of programs and policies that offer rebates to make MHD electric vehicles more affordable to increase their adoption in a state.	Transport
 Enacted	Public Fleet Electric Vehicle (EV) Procurement Targets 25% of the light-duty state fleet are ZEVs by 2030 Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Executive Order 23-06 (2023)	Transport
 Not Enacted	Electric Bus Procurement Targets Electric bus procurement targets require that a certain percentage or number of school buses and/or transit buses purchased or leased by the state, transit authorities, and/or school districts must be electric or zero-emissions.	Transport
 Enacted	Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Requirements Requires new public parking lots and existing parking lots undergoing a significant expansion to create designated EV parking spaces if they have 10+ total parking spaces, increasing the required number of EV spaces incrementally up to 200 spaces, with at least 6% of EV parking spaces for lots with over 200 total spaces. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SB 988 (2023)	Transport
 Enacted	Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Rebates The PowerUpRI program offers rebates between \$350-700 or 50% (whichever is less) of the purchase and installation costs of a Level 2 EV charger, depending on whether an electric upgrade is needed. The program offers rebates between \$500-1,000, or 75% (whichever is less) for income-qualified residents. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PowerUpRI Program	Transport

STATUS

POLICY

POLICY AREA

Electric Vehicle (EV) and EV Charging Infrastructure Plans

A Strategic Policy Guide for Improving Public Access to Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in Rhode Island



Enacted

Establishing Policies

- [H 5031 \(2021\)](#)
- [S 0994 \(2021\)](#)
- [A Strategic Policy Guide for Improving Public Access to Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in Rhode Island \(2022\)](#)

Transportation

Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Targets


 Not
Enacted

Transportation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets are set by a state to limit emissions in the transportation sector. These targets aim to reduce emissions by specific amounts over time, often expressed as a percentage reduction from a baseline year.

Transportation

Low Carbon Fuel Standards


 Not
Enacted

A low carbon fuel standard (LCFS) is a market-based mechanism to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels and account for the fuel's life cycle greenhouse gas emissions.

Transportation

Bicycle Friendly States

Rhode Island is ranked 18th out of 50 in the 2024 Bicycle Friendly State rankings by the League of American Bicyclists.


 Partially
Enacted

Establishing Policies

- [Rhode Island Bicycle Friendly State Scorecard](#)






Policy Components







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Transportation



STATUS	POLICY	POLICYA
 Not Enacted	Buy Clean Requirements Buy clean requirements mandate or incentivize the use of low-carbon construction materials, such as concrete and steel, in public projects to address embodied carbon.	Industry, Materials, Waste Managem
 Enacted	Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Regulations The state prohibits certain HFCs in specific stationary refrigeration and air-conditioning end-uses. Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 250-RICR-120-05-53 (2021)	Industry, Materials, Waste Managem
 Not Enacted	Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF6) Regulations Sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) regulations include phasedown commitments, reporting requirements, bans, or other measures that reduce SF6 usage and emissions.	Industry, Materials, Waste Managem
 Not Enacted	Oil and Gas Methane Regulations Oil and gas methane regulations include phasedown commitments, reporting requirements, leak detection and repair, or other measures that reduce methane emissions from oil and gas production.	Industry, Materials, Waste Managem
 Not Enacted	Fracking Bans Fracking bans prohibit the practice of hydraulic fracking for the production of oil and/or natural gas by a certain year. Legislation often requires an environmental agency or department to promulgate regulations.	Industry, Materials, Waste Managem

STATUS	POLICY	POLICYA
 Not Enacted	Landfill Methane Regulations Landfill methane regulations include rulemakings, emissions monitoring, emissions control, or other measures that reduce methane emissions from decaying organic waste in landfills.	Industry, Materials, Waste Managem
 Enacted	Food Waste Bans and Targets Food waste ban – The state requires entities to recycle organic waste at authorized composting or anaerobic digestion facilities if they are within 15 miles of an authorized recycling facility, and generate the following amount of food waste per year: - Higher education and research institutions: at least 52 tons/year - Other educational entities: at least 30 tons/year - All other generators: at least 104 tons/year Establishing Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 23-18.9-17 (2014) 	Industry, Materials, Waste Managem
 Not Enacted	Healthy Soils Financial Incentives Agriculture financial incentives support healthy soils and regenerative agriculture. Incentives may include reduced crop insurance premiums, property tax exemptions, grants, or cost-share programs.	Natural ar Working Lands
 Not Enacted	Healthy Soils Technical Assistance Programs Agriculture technical assistance programs provide state-driven technical assistance, apprenticeship and mentorship programs, and support securing additional funding for farmers to increase uptake of soil health practices.	Natural ar Working Lands