

Executive Orders, Enabling Legislation, and Participating Coalitions related to Climate Change Mitigation, Smart Growth, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions

Rhode Island faces environmental, economic, energy, and public health challenges from the impacts of intense weather events, sea level rise and climate change. Changing weather patterns and climate are a significant concern due to the potential impacts on the State’s vulnerable coastal areas, drinking water, energy systems, transportation infrastructure, economy, and health. Through policies, proactive planning, and the issuance of Executive Orders, the State’s leadership has committed to mitigating these impacts to protect Rhode Island’s residents, business, and visitors. These actions help to improve public health and promote economic resiliency and growth in the Ocean State.

January 2020	<u>Advancing a 100% Renewable Energy Future for Rhode Island By 2030</u> - Executive Order 20-01	Governor Gina M. Raimondo calls on the state to advance a 100% renewable energy future by 2030, including in the heating and transportation sectors. State emissions reductions targets require that the electric grid be near carbon-free.
December 2018	<u>Transportation & Climate Initiative (TCI) of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States</u>	Rhode Island joins a coalition of nine states and the District of Columbia to design a regional program that would lower carbon emissions from the transportation sector and invest those proceeds into more sustainable transportation solutions and infrastructure. With the adoption of smart policies and deployment of new technologies, the implementation of innovative transportation solutions that reduce congestion and pollution, including preparing for a future with zero-emission vehicles and enhancing the availability of a diverse portfolio of alternative transportation services including high-quality public transportation, walking and biking, can be accelerated.
July 2018	<u>Municipal Resilience Program (MRP)</u> <u>https://www.riib.org/mrp</u>	Resilient Rhody, Rhode Island’s first comprehensive climate resilience action strategy was released by Governor Raimondo in July 2018. The strategy identifies

		<p>priority actions the state can take to build statewide resilience. The Municipal Resilience Program (MRP) provides direct support to cities and towns to complete a municipal-driven process that will bring together climate change information and local knowledge to identify top hazards, current challenges, and community strengths. This process will identify priority projects and strategies to improve the municipality’s resilience to all natural and climate-related hazards using a flexible, tested approach called Community Resilience Building (CRB).</p>
September 2017	<p><u>Action Plan to Stand Up to Climate Change - Executive Order 17-10</u></p>	<p>With 400 miles of coastline, Rhode Island is vulnerable to climate change and is experiencing the related effects, including warmer weathers and waters, sea-level rise, intense storms and flooding. Establishes a Chief Resiliency Officer to drive efforts and work with the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council to prepare a Statewide Action Plan to include key actions to make Rhode Island’s residents, economy, infrastructure, health system, and natural resources more resilient to the impacts of climate change. The Plan calls for evaluation of the potential impact of climate change on critical infrastructure and developing adaptation strategies and methodologies for increasing the resilience of existing and built infrastructure systems.</p>
June 2017	<p><u>Reaffirming Rhode Island’s Commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement</u> Executive Order 17-06 (Rhode Island joins United States Climate Alliance)</p>	<p>Rhode Island remains dedicated to the principles of the Paris Climate Agreement and reaffirms its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement, with the goal of doing its share to hold the</p>

		increase in global temperatures at or below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
December 2015	<u>State Agencies to Lead by Example in Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy</u> Executive Order 15-17	State agencies shall seek to reduce the use of natural resources at State facilities, including a reduction in energy consumption derived from fossil fuels and emissions associated with such consumption. This order has implications for the State vehicle fleet, with goals of ensuring purchase of zero-emissions vehicles, installation of electric vehicle charging stations at state buildings, and reducing employees’ vehicle miles traveled to work by encouraging commute by foot, bike, public transit, and carpool.
2014	Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014 – Climate Change Coordinating Council http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE42/42-6.2/INDEX.HTM	The 2014 Resilient Rhode Island Act established the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4). It also set specific greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets; established an advisory board and a science and technical advisory board to assist the Council; and incorporated consideration of climate change impacts into the powers and duties of all state agencies. The EC4 is charged with developing and tracking the implementation of a plan to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions below 1990 levels of: 10 percent by 2020; 45 percent by 2035; and 80 percent by 2050.
2012	Complete Streets Law Enacted by the RI General Assembly and RIDOT	The Rhode Island General Assembly enacted General Law 24, Chapter 16, “to address Complete Streets Design Principles.” The guiding principle of the law states: These features of Complete Street design shall include, but not be limited to: sidewalks, paved shoulders suitable for use

		<p>by bicyclists, lane striping, bicycle lanes, share the road signage, road diets, roundabouts, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, bus pull outs, raised crosswalks, and traffic calming measures.</p> <p>RIDOT issued a policy directive on Complete Streets design consideration. It required that all consultants working on RIDOT transportation improvement projects consider people of all ages and abilities, and all appropriate forms of transportation</p>
2009	Rhode Island is a founding member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)	The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is the nation’s first mandatory, market-based cap and trade program to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2). As a participating state, Rhode Island receives CO2 allowance proceeds, which are invested in a variety of consumer benefit programs, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, direct energy bill assistance and other greenhouse gas reduction programs.
2002	Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas Action Plan http://righg.raabassociates.org/Articles/GHGPlanBody7-19-02FINAL.pdf	In July 2002 the Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas Action Plan was published. The Action Plan outlines programs and policies the state could undertake to meet its commitment under the New England Governors' and Eastern Canadian Provincial Premiers' (NEG/ECPP) Climate Change Action Plan, August 2001. The NEG/ECPP agreement aimed to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2010, to at least 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020, and up to 85 percent below 1990 levels over the long term.