



2021 RHODE ISLAND POLICY PRIORITIES

DRIVING THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION: A GREEN RECOVERY

The Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC) is dedicated to growing the clean energy economy in Rhode Island and across the region in pursuit of our mission to create a world-class and equitable clean energy hub in the Northeast.

As the region continues to build back from the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 is an important year; Rhode Island has the opportunity to ensure that the state's economy builds back better and people from all backgrounds are put to work in the clean energy sector. A vibrant clean energy industry will bring investment, equity, and jobs to Rhode Island and ensure that citizens, businesses, and industries can take advantage of the benefits of clean energy.

NECEC and its members stand ready to work with the General Assembly and the McKee Administration to achieve a cleaner, cheaper, resilient and equitable energy future for Rhode Island.

We are pleased to present our 2021 policy priorities.



NECEC'S 2021 RHODE ISLAND CLEAN ENERGY POLICY PRIORITIES

Expand our Clean Energy Targets

Transitioning the electric sector to no-carbon, clean and renewable energy sources is an effective and necessary goal for the next decade and is an essential ingredient for Rhode Island's overall clean energy strategy. Although the electric sector is not as emissions intensive as other sectors of the economy, the increasing electrification of the heating and transportation sectors means that the electric sector plays an outsized role in Rhode Island's overall clean energy efforts. NECEC was an active participant in the Office of Energy Resources' (OER) stakeholder process on the 100% Renewable Initiative, which ultimately supported a 100% renewable energy standard by 2030. But 2030 cannot be the end goal – rather, Rhode Island must achieve and then maintain 100% renewable electricity beyond 2030, even as electricity demand increases as other sectors of the economy become increasingly electrified.

Support: S629 and H5762 to ensure 100% renewable electric supply by 2030

Finalize Strengthened Climate Commitments

The 2021 Act on Climate would update and strengthen Rhode Island's existing climate laws. As it stands, Rhode Island's emissions reductions targets are just that – targets. This bill would mandate the state's emissions reduction commitments. The 2021 Act on Climate would also strengthen Rhode Island's commitment from 80% emissions reductions to economy-wide net-zero emissions by 2050. This ambitious commitment is necessary to prompt the actions that will address the state's contributions to climate change. The transition to a clean economy must benefit all residents. We commend legislative champions, particularly Senate President Ruggiero, Speaker Shekarchi, Senator Euer, and Representative Carson for their efforts to secure passage of the Act on Climate in both Chambers, and we urge the Governor to sign the bill without amendment.

Support: S78 and H5445, to commit the state to net-zero emissions by 2050



Support Local Clean Energy Development

Decarbonizing the electric sector can bring economic opportunity for Rhode Island's clean energy companies and its workers. It is critical that Rhode Island sustain a robust set of programs and policies that encourages the deployment of clean energy locally. From energy efficiency and offshore wind, to distributed and community solar and energy storage, Rhode Island stands to greatly expand its clean energy economy. To do so, there are a number of emerging challenges to the system that must be addressed, including transmission and distribution upgrades and interconnection costs. And without policy support, there will be inadequate storage capacity to optimize increasing renewable energy capacity as Rhode Island lags behind its neighbors in incorporating energy storage into program design. As such, NECEC encourages the Legislature to prioritize in-state renewable development, which will allow for local economic development and emissions benefits.

Support: H5327 and S472, with amendments, to expand access to community solar

Oppose: H5525, which would stymie solar deployment

Support: H5634, to clarify solar tax policy

Support: H6066, with amendments, to begin addressing interconnection issues

Pave the Way for the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) Program and Address Transportation Sector Emissions

Transportation pollution impacts Rhode Island residents through negative health effects, such as asthma, as well as through the consequences of climate change that are accelerated and worsened by transportation emissions. TCI is an efficient vehicle through which we can achieve significant emissions reductions from the transportation sector. Modeled on the successful Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), TCI leverages the lessons learned in that program and applies them to the transportation sector. Further, the proceeds from TCI will be reinvested within the state to spark innovation, provide benefits to Rhode Island residents, and accelerate the transition to a clean transportation future. TCI also contains a crucial Environmental Justice commitment that will ensure overburdened communities benefit from the program and have a voice in investment decisions.



Redouble Efforts on Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency will be crucial to ensuring that we meet our climate commitments in the most cost-effective and efficient manner. Additionally, stability and robust support for energy efficiency will lead to local jobs and deliver cost savings to customers. Rhode Island should develop programs to address health and safety issues that prevent low-income customers from participating in efficiency programs. Another key strategy is updating appliance efficiency standards to ensure that Rhode Island consumers continue to have access to high-efficiency products.

Support: H5966 and S339 to update efficiency standards

Support: H6144 to ensure the continuation of the energy efficiency programs

For more information about NECEC's 2021 Rhode Island Clean Energy Priorities, please contact:

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NECEC'S POLICY TEAM



Peter Rothstein is the **President of NECEC**. Previously, Peter was part of the Flagship Ventures team and founder of Allegro Strategy, a consultant, advisor and interim executive with early-stage cleantech start-ups. Peter has been in early-stage deal or executive roles with several cleantech companies, including Mascoma, Planar Energy Devices, Ze-gen, Novomer, Boston-Power, and Mechanology. He is actively involved in a range of leading cleantech and entrepreneurial organizations, including the National Renewable Energy Lab's VC Advisory Board, catalyst to MIT Deshpande Center solar and energy storage MIT projects. He serves as a Board member to Cleantech Open. prothstein@necec.org.



Jeremy McDiarmid is **NECEC Vice President, Policy & Government Affairs** and leads NECEC's policy and government affairs team. Prior to joining NECEC, he served as Commercial Business Development Manager at SunBug Solar. Before joining SunBug, Jeremy advised Acadia Center on organizational and operational priorities, having previously spent six years there as a Staff Attorney and then Massachusetts Director. He also served three years as Senior Director for Innovation and Industry Support at the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, where he led and executed programs to advance clean energy development within the Commonwealth. jmcdiarmid@necec.org.



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Dan Bosley is **NECEC's Government Relations Executive**. He served in the Massachusetts Legislature for 24 years as the State Representative from the First Berkshire District. During his time as State Representative, he served in several leadership positions, including chair of the Joint Committee on Energy and as a member of the conference committee on budgeting. He is credited with several job creation bills creating thousands of jobs across the Commonwealth as well as being the co-author of a groundbreaking life science bill and electricity restructuring in Massachusetts. dbosley@necec.org.



Meggie Quackenbush is **NECEC's Senior Communications Manager**. She previously served as deputy press secretary to Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey and deputy director of communications at MassDevelopment, Massachusetts' quasi-public economy development agency. She worked as a freelance reporter writing for The Dorchester Reporter and Boston Business Journal, and started her career at WGBH. Meggie holds a master's degree in journalism from Boston University and a bachelor's degree from St. Lawrence University. mquackenbush@necec.org.

