

Climate Change / Act on Climate Update

January 2024

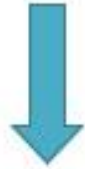
- Review of 'Act on Climate' mandates (reporting/dashboard/GHG reductions)
- 2020 GHG inventory & expectations for 2021 GHG inventory
- EC4 operations and budget
- 2023 recap & looking ahead to 2024/2025:
 - *Transportation*
 - *Electricity consumption*
 - *Thermal*
- Federal funding opportunities
- Equity & workforce development
- Resilience
- What to expect in 2024



Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4)

RIEC⁴

RIEC⁴



**Ensures RI will take bold
action to reduce pollution,
promote clean energy, and
improve public health**



DEM
RHODE ISLAND



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
**OFFICE OF
ENERGY RESOURCES**



Driven to get you there



DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION



COMMERCE CORPORATION



RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY



DPUC



**RHODE ISLAND
INFRASTRUCTURE BANK**

Act on Climate - Key Requirements

RIEC ⁴

The Act on Climate establishes economy-wide emissions reduction targets of:

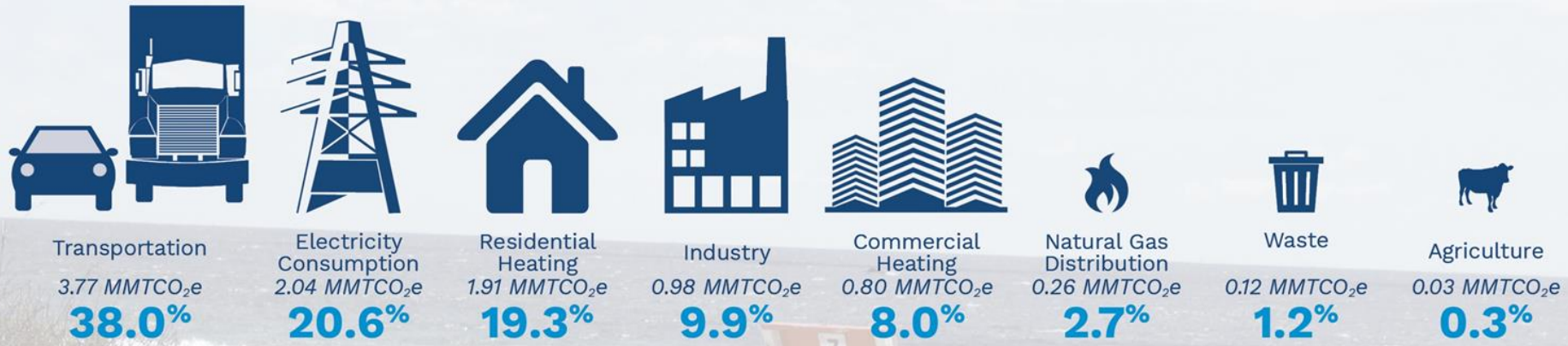
- 10% below 1990 levels by 2020
- 45% below 1990 levels by 2030
- 80% below 1990 levels by 2040
- **Net-zero emissions by 2050**

- By 12-31-2022, the EC4 shall submit an update to the **2016 GHG Reduction Plan** to Governor & General Assembly. **COMPLETE!**
- By 12-31-2025 (and every 5 years), the EC4 must submit an updated **Climate Action Strategy**, following public comment, that includes strategies/programs/actions to meet economy-wide targets for GHG reductions. **RFP IN PROGRESS!**
CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GRANTS ANNOUNCED!
- Develop **public metrics & an online climate dashboard**. **IN PROGRESS!**
 - Will be incorporated into existing RI Climate Change website at www.climatechangeri.gov

Overview of 2020 Emissions

RIEC ⁴

Gross GHG Emissions by Economic Sector in 2020



2020 Net GHG Emissions

9.24*
million metric tons of CO₂e

*Net emissions equal the sum of gross emissions and removals.
Sector totals may not align with net total due to rounding.

2020 Greenhouse Gas Removals

Land Use, Land Use Change
& Forestry (LULUCF)



-0.68 MMTCO₂e

7.4%
of gross GHG emissions
offset by LULUCF

1990 - 2020 Change



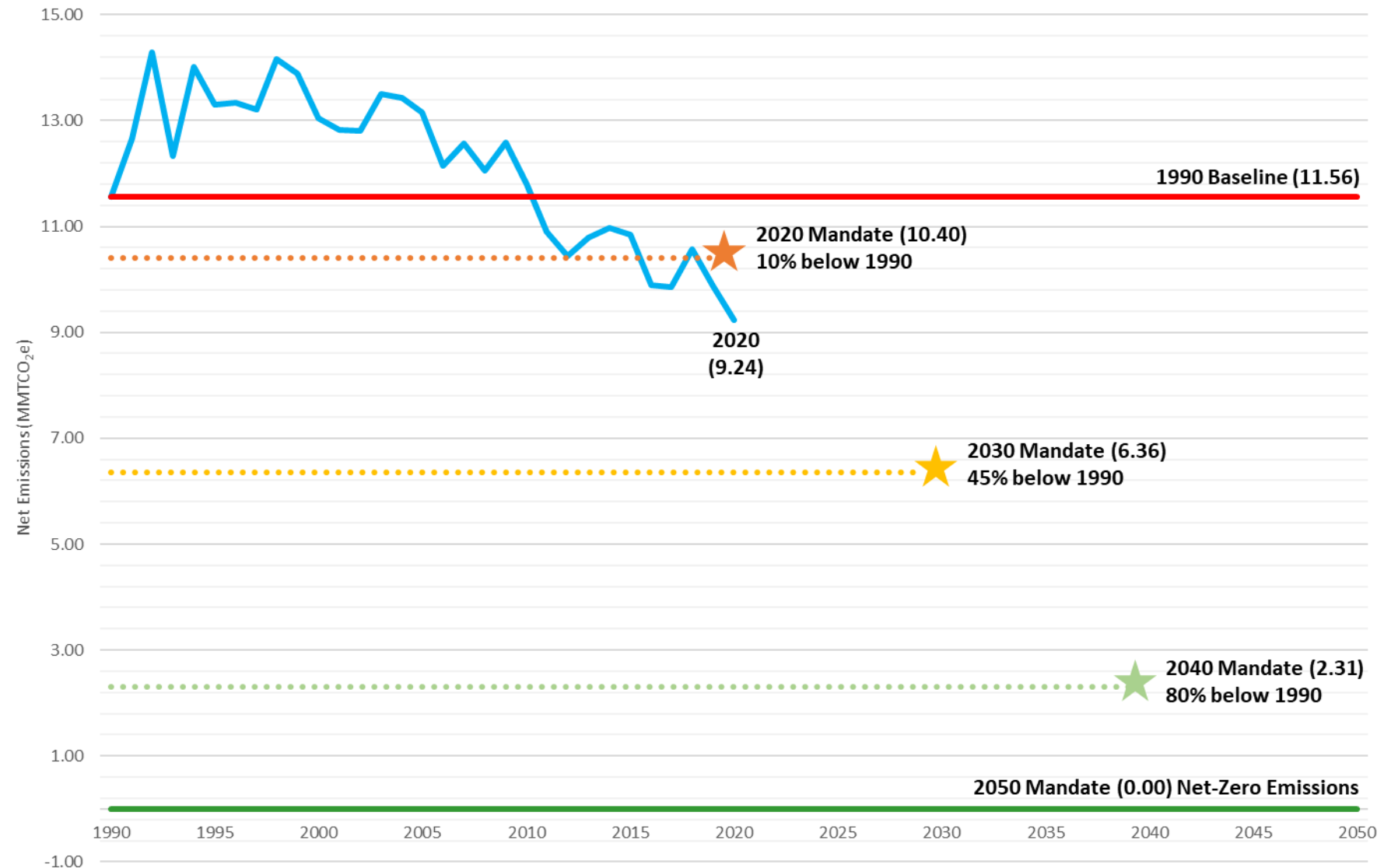
Statewide Net
GHG Reductions

-20.1%

1990 -2020 RI GHG Emission Trends

RIEC ⁴

Emission reduction effects of COVID-19:
- Aviation (-79.6%)
& highway vehicle (-7.3%) emissions declined



EC4 Operations and Budget

RIEC ⁴

- The EC4, EC4 Advisory Board, and EC4 Science & Technical Advisory Board (STAB) met a total of 18 times in 2023.
- Included a public engagement process for allocation of \$3M in funding.
- EC4 Spending Plan approved September 2023 (*on next slide*).
- Looking ahead to 2024 – EC4 will have ~ \$1.5M from RGGI auction proceeds to fund more initiatives:
 - *Last RGGI auction of FY2024 will take place in June 2024*
 - *Public engagement will take place Summer 2024*
 - *Anticipate approving next EC4 Spending Plan in September 2024*



Agency	Funds	Project Title
Office of Energy Resources	\$1.1 Million	EV and E-Bike Incentives programs
Commerce	\$200,000	Engagement with the business community
Statewide Planning	\$100,000	Climate vulnerability assessments (for municipalities; focus on improvements to municipal regulations)
Dept. of Environmental Management	\$100,000	Programmatic work for Chief Resilience Officer
RI Public Utilities Commission	\$150,000	Contractual staff for AOC implementation
Department of Health	\$80,000	Investigation of flooding risk and contamination
Dept. of Labor and Training	\$150,000	Environmental education and workforce grant program
Dept. of Environmental Management	\$120,000	Investments in urban tree cover and improving growing sites
RI Infrastructure Bank	\$150,000	Additional investment in Energy Asset Management Program
Office of Energy Resources	\$150,000	Enhancing municipal participation in state energy programs
TBD	\$100,000	Contractual support to prepare and develop federal grant applications for climate programs
TBD	\$200,000	Support for incorporating climate change considerations into public building investments
Total	\$2,600,000	



Transportation Sector

- EV/E-Bike incentives
 - EV - **1,153** rebates awarded
 - E-bike - **942** rebates awarded
- Zero-Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) registrations increased by 55.27% in 2023, ending the year with a total of 10,552 ZEVs registered.
- National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) – Phase I & II (\$22.9 million over 5 years)
 - Phase I: Purchase Order approved and vendor onboard
 - Phase II: Internal working group meets monthly, actively planning for community outreach and stakeholder engagement
- Advanced Clean Cars II/Advanced Clean Trucks rules
- Electric school buses: 8 registered in RI
- RIPTA electrification
- RIDOT Carbon Reduction Strategy
- RI's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2045



Electric Sector

- Offshore wind:
 - Permit status/construction
 - ProvPort offshore wind construction hub
 - Procurement
- South Quay partnership with ProvPort
- Solar siting law
- Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Program for Municipalities -\$1.6 million OER/\$1.089 million to 10 municipalities
- RGGI Program Review



Thermal Sector

- Clean Heat RI launched September 2023
 - As Dec 31st, **536 rebates** were awarded, totaling **\$1,528,225.83**.
 - Launching a dashboard at the end of January.
- Explore gas system transformation (PUC 'Future of Gas' Docket)
- Lead By Example EO (May 2023)
 - Align state agencies with AOC goals and provide support to schools and municipalities

Federal Funding Opportunities

RIEC ⁴

- EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Lead agency - DEM
- NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge Lead agency - DEM
- HOMES/HEAR Home Energy Rebate Program Lead agency - OER
- Solar for All Lead agency - OER
- Building Energy Code Technical Assistance Lead agency - OER
- Energy Future Grant Lead agency - OER
- EV Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Competitive Grant Lead agency - DOT
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) Lead agency - RIIB
- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity (RAISE) Lead agency - RIPTA

CPRG **Planning** Grant

- \$3M awarded to RI in August 2023.
- Will support the development of all grant reporting requirements including a Preliminary Climate Action Plan (PCAP) in March 2024 & the 2025 Climate Action Strategy.
- Supporting the development of a new climate dashboard.
- Supporting DEM's Climate Change Community Engagement Grants (\$200K).

CPRG **Implementation** Grant

- ~\$4.3B available to states/MSAs/tribes that received a CPRG planning grant.
- Applications are due 4/1/2024.
- Awards between \$2M - \$500M.
- States can band together and submit Coalition Applications.
- Significant cross-agency collaboration will be required.
- Goal is to support implementation of ambitious measures that will achieve significant, cumulative GHG reductions by 2030.

Equity & Workforce Development RIEC ⁴

- Climate and Energy Justice staff at DEM & OER
- EJ Training for EC4/AB/STAB members in September 2023
- Notice of award - EJ G2G Grant (October 2023)
- Climate Justice Hours
- Focus on just transition in the workforce (GEWAC)
- DEM Strategic Plan & EJ Policy
- 2023 Clean Energy Industry Report (expected Spring 2024)

- Municipal Resilience Program – RIIB
 - RIIB received \$52M in Action Grant requests; only \$12M in available funding
- Resilient Rhody Plan (2018) & Update (2021)
 - Over \$40 million in funding for resilience projects since 2018:
 - \$10M - 2018 Green Bond
 - \$2.5M - Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank funding for MRP
 - \$7M - 2021 Special Election Green Bond
 - \$20M - 2022 Green Bond and OSCAR
 - 2024 Green Bond – \$10m for MRP, \$2m for Resilience & Access
- Updated Executive Order on Resilience (May 2023)
 - Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) started 12/31/23 at DEM
 - Biennial Reporting (starts Dec. 2024)

What to Expect in 2024

RIEC ⁴

- Implementation of 2023 EC4 Spending Plan
- PCAP
- Decisions on Pending Grant Applications
 - Carbon Reduction Implementation
 - NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge
- Begin Implementation of NEVI Phase 2
- Award of Community Engagement Grants
- Kick-off of Public Engagement for 2025 Climate Action Strategy
- Development of 2024 EC4 Spending Plan
- MRP, OSCAR, and Climate Resilience Project Grant Offerings
- 2021 GHG Inventory