

2021 Act On Climate

Senator Euer ([S-78](#)) & Representative Carson ([H-5445](#))

The 2021 Act On Climate bill uses science, transparency, equity, and accountability to ensure that Rhode Island reduces its greenhouse gas emissions to **net zero by 2050**. This brings us in line with mandatory, enforceable emission reductions already in place in neighboring Massachusetts.

Background: The Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014

Seven years ago, climate activists won passage of the Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014. The state's first-ever comprehensive climate bill, it called for reductions of carbon emissions of 45% by 2035 and 80% by 2050 below 1990 levels. These carbon emission reduction goals are out of date and lack accountability and transparency. The Resilient Rhode Island Act created the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) as the coordinating body to oversee government response to the climate crisis. But it required only limited input for the EC4's one emissions reduction plan.

What's New?: The 2021 Act On Climate

The 2021 Act On Climate bill updates the Resilient RI Act in several critical ways:

Science: Updates our climate targets in accordance with the latest science regarding what is needed to avert climate disaster. It creates achievable targets every ten years, with a 45% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030; an 80% reduction by 2040; and a requirement of net-zero emissions by 2050.

Transparency: Concrete plans to meet the emission reductions targets will be issued by the EC4 every five years. There will be public comment on the plans, and the plans will address the input provided to the EC4 by its advisory bodies. There will be public metrics and a dashboard, updated at least annually, to track emissions reductions and the sources of energy Rhode Island is using.

Equity: Plans will include an equitable transition for environmental justice populations and a process for environmental justice communities to provide input on the plans. Plans will identify support for workers in the transition as well as the development of programs to recruit, train, and retain women, people of color, Indigenous people, veterans, formerly incarcerated people, and people living with disabilities in jobs related to a clean energy economy.

Accountability: Makes the state's greenhouse gas emissions reductions legally binding. If the state fails to follow the law, it can be enforced by a court order.

What Can You Do?

Contact Governor Raimondo (governor@governor.ri.gov), Lieutenant Governor McKee (ltgov@ltgov.ri.gov), and your own legislators ([look up](#) and then [Senate](#) and [House](#)) to encourage them to support the 2021 Act On Climate bill, [S-78](#) by Senator Dawn Euer and [H-5445](#) by Representative Lauren Carson. Thank you!