

## LEAD BY EXAMPLE

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**Objective:** The City of Providence expects to lead by example, eliminating all climate pollution from municipal operations by 2040. The City will prioritize city-owned schools and facilities most used by low-income, communities of color and in cumulative pollution areas.

| Strategies: Buildings and Clean Energy                                                                        | PROGRESS SCALE       | NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| 100% of municipal buildings' electricity will be renewable by 2030                                            | Substantial Progress | -VNM project (and RECs).<br>-14 rooftop solar projects constructed (1), under construction (2) or under contract (11).<br>-State RES amended to require 100% renewable energy by 2033 (previously 2050).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Upgrade municipal buildings to shift towards zero energy buildings                                            | Substantial Progress | -Electrification: among others, 7 of 12 recreation centers electrified by end of 2026, 2 of 11 fire houses under contract to be electrified, 9 of ~40 schools electrified or under development to be electrified.<br>-14 rooftop solar projects constructed (1), under construction (2) or under contract (11).<br>-Decarbonization Roadmap and Green Revolving Fund developed to support decision making and investments in energy efficiency and decarbonization projects of City-owned buildings. |
| Design new buildings to be zero energy                                                                        | Substantial Progress | -New public buildings and major renovations built to Energy Efficiency and Carbon Neutral Goals for Municipal Buildings ordinance standards, which require prohibit new gas connections, and promote energy efficiency, electrification, and on-site renewable energy.<br>-New schools and major renovations are designed to NECHPS standards, which require buildings to be built be energy efficient, made solar ready, and other green and health requirements.                                   |
| Explore back-up battery storage and microgrids for critical facilities                                        | Some Progress        | -Microgrid study for Joslin Recreation Center/Olneyville Resilience Hub.<br>-Microgrid under development at new DPW on Allens Ave.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Strategies: Transportation                                                                                    |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Maximize efficiency of the City's current vehicle fleet and invest in electric vehicles and charging stations | Some Progress        | -22 charging stations installed at Public Safety Garage. 1 charging station installed at RWP with infrastructure laid for up to 7 more.<br>-Funding available for future infrastructure at Telecommunications Building and Recreation Headquarters and Centers, DIS Building, and new DPW building.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Reduce emissions from school buses                                                                            |                      | -Requested information from vendor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Strategies: Healthy Green Spaces                                                                              |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Expand and improve green spaces                                                                               | Substantial Progress | -PVD Tree Plan published and used to guide decision making on tree planting.<br>-Parks Department Strategic Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

**Objective:** To ensure that those who are most impacted by the climate crisis in Providence are centered in the decision-making process for creating and implementing solutions.

| Strategies:                                                                                           | PROGRESS SCALE       | NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| Establish Green Justice Zones in Frontline Communities                                                | Some Progress        | -REJC was making progress, but federal funding cuts curtailed project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Implement this plan via a collaborative governance structure                                          | Some Progress        | -Sustainability Commission, Sustainability Reserve Account, Sustainable and Equitable Stormwater and Sewer Funding Task Force, SOAR Urban Flooding Cohort, Olneyville Resilience Hub & CRC, CJP Update, NOAA Shoreline group and Climate Ready PVD Cohorts, Port Master Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Develop a long-term climate resilience and adaptation plan                                            | Some Progress        | -PRP, GZA & ARCADIS developing Climate Ready PVD, a comprehensive compilation of existing resilience plans and studies.<br>-CJP update to include an index of recent and ongoing resilience plans and a gap analysis.<br>-Woonasquatucket River and West River watershed plans under development.<br>-Hazard Mitigation Plan updated in 2024, with added emphasis on climate hazards, including heat.<br>-Comp Plan included a heavy focus on resilience in a stand-alone chapter, and throughout other chapters.<br>-Stormwater and Sewer Utility Pre-Implementation analysis that includes green infrastructure and flood mitigation programs. |
| Measure and monitor the level of environmental burden and investments being made in each neighborhood | No Action            | -Working with Breathe Providence on indoor and outdoor air quality.<br>-At community level, People's Port Authority initiatives to measure air quality, soil quality, and water contamination at the Port.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Adopt the Just Providence Framework citywide                                                          | Some Progress        | -NOAA shoreline cohort (Providence Planning Dept. used community cohort model to educate, research, and guide future decision making in collaboration with community).<br>-ProvPort Master Plan created the Master Plan Advisory Committee to help guide community engagement efforts and develop master plan strategies and priorities.<br>-Other notable engagement efforts include selection of Police Chief under Smiley Administration and comp plan engagement process.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Create a dedicated funding stream to support implementation                                           | Substantial Progress | -Municipal Green Revolving Fund<br>-Sustainable sewer and stormwater utility fee pre-implementation analysis<br>-General budget investments in software to support energy division, ev planning, and recycling program.<br>-Increase in Sustainability Department staff positions.<br>-ProvPort Sustainability Reserve Account                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Advocate and support a state-level Climate Justice Working Group                                      | Some Progress        | -REJC has supported the development of a state-wide coalition of climate and environmental justice groups (OSEJA). DEM and OER have created and hired staff specifically focused on climate and environmental justice work.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

**Objective:** To end displacement and ensure dignified housing and access to affordable, efficient and clean energy for Providence residents, while eliminating fossil fuel in all buildings.

| Strategies: Anti-Displacement and Dignified Housing                                                                                                                   | PROGRESS SCALE  | NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| Ensure all residents can benefit from energy efficiency improvements without concern for being displaced                                                              | Hard to Measure |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Stop the displacement of communities of color in Providence                                                                                                           | Hard to Measure |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Initiate Community Benefit Agreements for large projects                                                                                                              | Some Progress   | ProvPort Sustainability and Community Reserve Accounts created as part of ProvPort lease extension and tax exempt agreement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Explore mechanisms to prioritize housing for displaced populations                                                                                                    | Hard to Measure |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Strategies: Affordable, efficient, and clean energy                                                                                                                   |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Pass a Building Energy Reporting Ordinance (BERO)                                                                                                                     | Complete        | BERO ordinance passed in November 2023. All covered properties now phased in and required to report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Explore mandatory emissions reductions for large buildings                                                                                                            | Some Progress   | Reviewed Building Performance Standards in Cambridge and Boston for their proximity and similar weather. In the early stages of developing regular community conversations (in-person or virtual TBD) between owners of BERO Covered Properties and the City. The conversations are intended to evolve into conversations about Building Performance Standards by first focusing on implementing energy actions (i.e., sharing experiences and resources) and potential for public private partnerships. |
| Require homes and small businesses to disclose their energy performance at the time of rental or sale                                                                 | No Action       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Advocate for the state of Rhode Island to adopt more advanced energy code standards                                                                                   | Complete        | The State has adopted the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with no state-specific amendments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Expand knowledge of and access to existing energy efficiency programs                                                                                                 | Some Progress   | Housing and human services cross refers home repair program applicants with CAPP/LIHEAP and RI Energy/RISE weatherization                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Expand energy efficiency, energy access, clean energy and electrification programs to better serve low-income communities, renters, and other underserved populations | Some Progress   | Maintained home repair program (local), weatherization program (CAPP/State). State added clean heat program to incentivize conversion to heat pumps. Program includes significant adders for LMI applicants. Awareness and uptake of programs in frontline communities remains a challenge. Owner/renter split remains a challenge.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Identify additional funding for energy efficiency investments in frontline communities                                                                                | No Action       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Create more equitable energy rate structures                                                                                                                          | Some Progress   | -A60 rate available for low income customers. Budget billing available to all customers.<br>-PUC directed RI Energy to expand low income discount rates by January 2027.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## COMMUNITY HEALTH

**Objective:** Create the conditions for healthy air and community spaces free from pollution for all Providence residents, with a focus on Port-area neighborhoods and other communities facing the highest rates of pollution.

| Strategies: Air Quality                                                                     | PROGRESS SCALE       | NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| Advocate for legally binding climate pollution reduction and clean energy targets           | Complete             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Act on Climate sets enforceable energy targets including a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050.</li> <li>-Renewable energy standard strengthened to require all RI electricity to be renewable by 2033 and offshore wind procurement</li> <li>-Advocated for BERO @ state level and building performance standards</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Explore zoning and land use policy changes to reduce pollution and improve community health | Substantial Progress | Updated comprehensive plan adds meaningful language about reducing pollution from industrial zones, including the port. Similar language was included in the ProvPort lease extension and tax exempt agreement. Zoning changes in industrial zones have not occurred yet because we are waiting for the ProvPort Master Plan to be completed to inform those changes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Work with the state to communicate air quality to impacted communities                      | Substantial Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-City worked with Breathe Providence to develop an Odor Reporting Form available through 311. The City is now working on improving how that information can be sent to DEM and used by DEM to enforce air quality and odor violations.</li> <li>-City funded Breathe Providence to study indoor air quality in public schools with a resident cohort. Breathe Providence is now advocating at the State level to require air quality monitoring in schools and working with PPSP to begin voluntarily monitoring air quality in some schools.</li> <li>-Providence and EPA continue to host quarterly port/community working group meetings. DEM is a frequent participant and presenter on the topic of odors and air quality.</li> </ul> |
| Advocate for legislation for the elimination of gas leaks                                   | No Action            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Strategies: Healthy Community Spaces                                                        |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Maximize the health and climate benefits of green spaces                                    | Some Progress        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-PVD Tree Plan published and used to guide decision making on tree planting.</li> <li>-Parks Department Strategic Plan.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Expand community facilities for cooling                                                     | Substantial Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continued partnership with CLPVD to provide warming and cooling centers during extreme heat and cold.</li> <li>-City funded CLPVD to remain open on sundays and holidays during heat waves at key locations - usually s. providence and olneyville.</li> <li>-CPF renovations to Olneyville Resilience Hub, Elmwood Community Center, Davey Lopes Recreation Center as well as other renovations to other recreation centers will enable a larger network of cooling centers.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Support the development of a Green Port Initiative                                          | Substantial Progress | ProvPort Master Plan (air quality monitoring, sustainability and community reserve accounts), Lease/Tax-Exempt Agreement and Comp Plan commitments (no new or expanded fossil fuel infrastructure in port), Port-Community Working Group, Waterson Terminal's participation in US EPA Green Ports Initiative, Public Street waterfront access project, Community Day in the Port, NOAA Port of Providence Cohort.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Work towards a zero emissions, pollution-free port (operations)                             | Some Progress        | ProvPort Master Plan - Waterson Terminals planning for electrification of operations and more renewable energy in the port. Act on Climate moves the conversation from whether to decarbonize to how to decarbonize.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Work towards a clean port economy (land use)                                                | Some Progress        | Lease/Tax-Exempt Agreement, Comp Plan, and ProvPort Master Plan include language to clean and green port uses. Zoning has not been updated, but intent is to shift away from legacy fossil fuel and polluting industries to less-polluting uses including renewable energy and "blue economy". Some newer port tenants include support industries for off-shore wind.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Create a network of Resilience Hubs                                                         | Substantial Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-City launched and provides space for the first resilience hub in Olneyville.</li> <li>-Sustainability has provided grant funding to support operations at the Hub.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## LOCAL AND REGENERATIVE ECONOMY

**Objective:** Build a sustainable, zero-waste economy in Providence, one in which we produce and consume to live well without living better at the expense of others, with a focus on supporting local businesses and creating meaningful work for local frontline community members.

| Strategies:                                                                                                      | PROGRESS SCALE | NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| Create workforce development programs to support a just transition away from fossil fuels                        | Some Progress  | Funds allocated to work with Climate Jobs RI to develop a Just Transition Plan (planned for spring 2027), building on state-level planning effort. At the state level, labor standards for renewable energy projects was enacted. The new Thermal Energy Networks state law enacted includes labor standards and just transition requirements. |
| Strengthen City policies supporting local frontline community workers and businesses                             | Some Progress  | Climate Jobs City 2023 resolution adopted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Create employment pipelines for local residents to work at the port                                              | Some Progress  | Workforce pathways and training infrastructure section included in ProvPort Master Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Strategies: Zero Waste</b>                                                                                    |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Create recognition program for local businesses that are composting and engaging in responsible waste management | No Action      | Not completed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Increase carbon sequestration in soils through composting                                                        | Some Progress  | USDA and SWIFR Grants built out and promoted community composting opportunities, accelerated composting in PPSD cafeterias, strengthened local processing and hauling capacity, and encouraged institutional/business scale composting in Providence.                                                                                          |
| Explore a city-wide community composting program and other food waste reduction strategies                       | Some Progress  | USDA and SWIFR Grants built out and promoted community composting opportunities, accelerated composting in PPSD cafeterias, strengthened local processing and hauling capacity, and encouraged institutional/business scale composting in Providence.                                                                                          |

## CLEAN ENERGY

**Objective:** Transition to a clean energy supply in Providence, with a focus on local generation and equitable access.

| Strategies:                                                                                          | PROGRESS SCALE | NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| Implement community choice aggregation (CCA)                                                         | Complete       | Providence Community Electricity introduced in 2023                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Increase access to renewable energy for frontline communities via community solar and other programs | Some Progress  | OER Solar for All program supports low-income residential solar, solar on affordable housing, and community solar projects (in litigation in federal courts).                                                       |
| Prioritize development in the port to support offshore wind                                          | Some Progress  | Comp Plan and ProvPort Master Plan include language that encourages development of this type of use in the port. Recent tenants added to the port include companies that support the development of off-shore wind. |
| Address local impacts of regional power operations                                                   | No Action      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## TRANSPORTATION

**Objective:** Ensure that all Providence residents have access to clean and efficient public transportation and infrastructure that supports walking and riding bicycles, while reducing carbon and co-pollutants in the city, with a focus on areas with cumulative health impacts.

| Strategies:                                                                                                                       | PROGRESS SCALE       | NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| Evaluate and modify traffic patterns to reduce emissions in frontline communities                                                 | Some Progress        | ProvPort Master Plan specifically recommends developing a truck traffic management plan, designating truck routes that separate industrial traffic and residential streets, and exploring an highway ramp that enables southbound access on I-95 from the port area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Advocate for reducing emissions from trucks                                                                                       | Some Progress        | ProvPort Master Plan specifically recommends accelerating the replacement of older pre-2007 trucks lacking modern emission controls; implementing vehicle booking and appointment systems to reduce truck queuing and idling on public roads; promoting EPA SmartWay and Green Marine voluntary environmental programs among port carriers; and strengthening anti-idling enforcement and technology adoption. The study notes that electric trucks could significantly reduce emissions for the short-haul trips characteristic of Port operations. |
| Advocate for investing in cleaner and more accessible public transportation                                                       | Some Progress        | City advocated in support of restoring RIPTA funding when, on multiple occasions, State budgets threatened to cut service.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Invest in infrastructure to make walking and riding bicycles safer and more accessible, especially in low-income areas            | Some Progress        | Great Streets Master Plan implementation, Safe Streets for All, North Main Street Task Force, Broad Street, Kinsley Avenue.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Create a citywide mobility plan that builds upon the City's Great Streets Master Plan and RIPTA's forthcoming Transit Master Plan |                      | Not sure.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Expand bike share and scooter share access to low-income communities                                                              | Some Progress        | Licensing processes for bike and scooter share includes commitments to low-income rates and terms on the equitable distribution of bikes and scooters throughout the city's neighborhoods (i.e. not only in high traffic places like around universities).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Advocate for the expansion of incentives for electric vehicles                                                                    | Substantial Progress | State of RI continues to offer EV incentives for new and used electric vehicles.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## RESILIENCE TO HEAT AND FLOODING

**Objective:** TBD. This is a new section. The resilience-related strategies below are drawn from other existing chapters in the current CJP.

| Strategies:                                                            | PROGRESS SCALE       | NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| Explore back-up battery storage and microgrids for critical facilities | Substantial Progress | -Microgrid study for Joslin Recreation Center/Olneyville Resilience Hub.<br>-Microgrid under development at new DPW on Allens Ave.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Expand and improve green spaces                                        | Substantial Progress | -PVD Tree Plan published and used to guide decision making on tree planting.<br>-Parks Department Strategic Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Develop a long-term climate resilience and adaptation plan             | Some Progress        | -PRP, GZA & ARCADIS developing Climate Ready PVD, a comprehensive compilation of existing resilience plans and studies.<br>-CJP update to include an index of recent and ongoing resilience plans and a gap analysis.<br>-Woonasquatucket River and West River watershed plans under development.<br>-Hazard Mitigation Plan updated in 2024, with added emphasis on climate hazards, including heat.<br>-Comp Plan included a heavy focus on resilience in a stand-alone chapter, and throughout other chapters.<br>-Stormwater and Sewer Utility Pre-Implementation analysis that includes green infrastructure and flood mitigation programs. |
| Maximize the health and climate benefits of green spaces               | Some Progress        | -PVD Tree Plan published and used to guide decision making on tree planting.<br>-Parks Department Strategic Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Expand community facilities for cooling                                | Substantial Progress | -Continued partnership with CLPVD to provide warming and cooling centers during extreme heat and cold.<br>-City funded CLPVD to remain open on sundays and holidays during heat waves at key locations - usually s. providence and olneyville.<br>-CPF renovations to Olneyville Resilience Hub, Elmwood Community Center, Davey Lopes Recreation Center as well as other renovations to other recreation centers will enable a larger network of cooling centers.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Support the development of a Green Port Initiative                     | Substantial Progress | ProvPort Master Plan (air quality monitoring, sustainability and community reserve accounts), Lease/Tax-Exempt Agreement and Comp Plan commitments (no new or expanded fossil fuel infrastructure in port), Port-Community Working Group, Waterson Terminal's participation in US EPA Green Ports Initiative, Public Street waterfront access project, Community Day in the Port, NOAA Port of Providence Cohort.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Create a network of Resilience Hubs                                    | Substantial Progress | -City launched and provides space for the first resilience hub in Olneyville.<br>-Sustainability has provided grant funding to support operations at the Hub.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |