



Rhode Island General Assembly

2021 - 2022 Green Report Card

A New Standard for What is Possible: The best two years of environmental policymaking in Rhode Island history.

As the urgency to address the climate crisis and protect land, air, and water resources intensifies, the Rhode Island General Assembly has stepped up by passing a sweeping agenda of environmental bills, including the fastest transition to 100% renewable electricity in the nation.

Executive Summary

The last environmental legislative report card gave the General Assembly an “incomplete” for failing to vote on a single bill on the Environment Council of RI (ECRI) legislative agenda. In 2020, Rhode Island was falling behind on its climate targets, and we were seeing a demoralizing lack of attention to toxic, polluting, and unjust practices in the state.

ECRI is pleased to report that the 2021 - 2022 sessions were banner years for environmental action; they set a new standard for what is possible, and they give Rhode Islanders hope that we are moving in the right direction for the environment.

See Inside:

- **Wins in 2021 and 2022**
- **How state agencies are responding to the Act on Climate mandate**
- **Looking ahead to the next two years**

➤ **Appendices summarizing legislator rankings, ECRI agenda, and legislative scorecard**

In early 2021, the General Assembly finally broke the drought of environmental legislation by passing **Act on Climate**. The legislation requires Rhode Island to meet economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions mandates of 45% reduction by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels), 80% 2040, and net-zero by 2050. It also kicked off a planning process to get to these goals and includes all state agencies in the mandate. Act on Climate had been ECRI’s top priority for several years. As advocates expected, the law brings a new sense of urgency to legislative and administrative climate action, including additional supporting legislation in 2022.

The 2021 - 2022 sessions have revealed a noteworthy commitment to climate and environmental action from General Assembly leadership. In particular, we highlight **Speaker Joseph Shekarchi, House Majority Leader Chris Blazewski, and Senator Dawn Euer,**

Chair of the Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee. These leaders have fought for environmental priorities ranging from the regulation of toxic PFAS to offshore wind procurement to restrictions on neonicotinoid pesticides.

In particular, we praise **Speaker Shekarchi** and **Leader Blazejewski** for refusing to bring a bill that would support an extremely polluting and unjust burning of plastics—referred to as “advanced recycling”—(S2788/H8089) to a vote in the House.

Senate President Dominick Ruggerio has also been a champion: he sponsored S2274, the nation-leading bill to get Rhode Island to 100% renewable electricity by 2033 as well as the Plastic Waste Reduction Act (S2446). He also led the Senate in passing several environmental bills that languished in the House, including the ECRI priority Environmental Justice Act (S2087).

President Ruggerio’s record of environmental accomplishments had a blemish: the Senate, with his vote, passed the “advanced recycling” act (2788), intended to exempt polluting plastic-burning facilities from environmental regulation. Petrochemical lobbyists are promoting this legislation in state after state, although it has never created a circular economy for single use plastics.

ECRI emphasizes that the 2021-2022 environmental achievements are significantly due to the commitment and remarkable efforts of environmentally concerned members of both Senate and House. In this report, we will highlight the legislators whose advocacy made the difference. We also recognize that our

movement is stronger and more intersectional than ever. ECRI has worked diligently to build equitable partnerships with labor, housing advocates, and justice advocates under a common vision of a future that is more just, healthy, and prosperous for all Rhode Islanders.

The 2021 - 2022 sessions have also revealed where much more work remains: Rhode Island’s leaders must prioritize equity and justice in all policies going forward. They must also begin to take a proactive approach to policies that consider our larger environmental goals.

Only one Environmental Justice bill passed during the 2021-2022 term.

Rhode Island’s legislatively-created solar incentives have led to deforestation for years, but the legislature has failed so far to take a comprehensive approach to aligning renewable energy incentives with our other environmental goals.

We also need transportation policies that transition us away from single-passenger internal combustion vehicles. We must manage the energy needs of the built environment without fossil fuels. We need public education and understanding of climate change and the variety of measures required for a just energy transition and protections needed from the impending environmental and public health threats of higher temperatures, damaging storms, droughts, and sea-level rise.

To meet our climate and environmental goals, the General Assembly must not take any steps backward, as nearly happened with the “advanced recycling” bill.

2021 and 2022 in the General Assembly

Climate & Energy

ECRI began the 2021 legislative session with a single priority: **Act on Climate (S078/H5445)**, sponsored by **Sen. Dawn Euer** and **Rep. Lauren Carson**. A diverse set of advocacy groups agreed that this bill was the single most important piece of legislation because the climate crisis affects all aspects of our ecosystem and Rhode Islanders' well-being. The legislation creates a framework (a decarbonization plan) to achieve new, mandatory climate goals (45% greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, 80% by 2040, net zero by 2050). It issued a mandate to all state agencies to consider climate in decision-making; entities such as the Energy Facility Siting Board and Division of Public Utilities have already issued rulings referencing the law's emissions reduction mandate.

In addition to **Sen. Euer** and **Rep. Carson**, ECRI would like to recognize **Speaker Joe Shekarchi**, **Senate President Dominick Ruggiero**, **Majority Leader Chris Blazejewski**, **House Whip Katherine Kazarian**, and **Rep. David Bennett**, Chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee, for their vocal championship of Act on Climate. The lengthy floor debate in the House revealed that some legislators continue to drag their feet on climate action. Legislators who voted against Act on Climate received lower ratings in this report's quantitative assessment.

Act on Climate requires that Rhode Island meet net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Further legislation and regulations with ongoing leadership from every government branch and knowledgeable citizen support will be essential, from now through 2050 and beyond.

Rhode Island's successful energy efficiency—least cost procurement program (S629/H5262 by **Sen. Susan Sosnowski** and **Rep. Deb Ruggiero**)—another ECRI priority—was renewed in 2021. Energy efficiency was further promoted with the legislature's passing of the Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards Act (in 2021–S339/H5966), by **Sen. Sosnowski** and **Rep. Art Handy**.

Modifications of Rhode Island's renewable energy standard to meet the more ambitious Act on Climate requirements, yet another ECRI priority, passed the Senate but died in the House Environment Committee in 2021 (S629/H5762, by **President Ruggiero** and **Rep. Ruggiero**). This became ECRI's top-priority legislation for 2022. After modifying the legislation to reach 100% renewable electricity by 2033 (in 2022–2274A/H7277), it passed Senate and House successfully, and was signed into law by **Governor Dan McKee**. Collaboration among legislative leadership, environmental stakeholders, and labor representatives forged a compromise that is currently the most ambitious in the nation, with the earliest mandated date to reach 100% renewable electricity.

Recognizing the need for sufficient renewable electric energy, the legislature went on to pass the Affordable Clean Energy Act (in 2022–S2583/H7971, by **Sen. Euer** and **Rep. Handy**), which was requested by **Gov. McKee**. The bill

requires procurement of 600 – 1000 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind. If all 1,000 MW of offshore wind are procured, Rhode Island will meet approximately half of our 100% by 2033 goal with offshore wind resources alone. The final legislation also includes ratepayer protections by cutting and eventually eliminating “remuneration” payments to utility companies. This legislation was supported by conservation groups for its increased emphasis on protections of marine ecosystems; it was also supported by labor for the new labor standards in the bill. **Sen. Euer** was crucial in making sure that this bill was as strong as possible on ratepayer, environmental, and labor protections.

Unfortunately, the Senate and House failed to pass legislation that fixes Rhode Island’s unbalanced solar incentive programs, which are driving deforestation while failing to sufficiently expand solar on preferred sites. Solar-siting legislation (H7531, sponsored by **Rep. June Speakman**) was an ECRI priority in 2022.

It would have:

- Disallowed the use of state incentives in the “Core Forests” that are essential to the state’s ecosystems and climate resilience.
- Expanded the Renewable Energy Growth Program, the renewable incentive program that has oversight and policy levers, to 200 MW of new renewable energy per year, with a focus on *preferred sites*, including carports and schools.

Despite extensive support and more than a hundred letters submitted, the bill did not pass the House, nor was it introduced in the Senate. More disappointingly, no substantial discussions

happened around conserving core forests and fixing the solar incentive programs.

Instead, the House passed S3053/H8090 (**Rep. Mia Ackerman** and **Sen. Melissa Murray**) in 2022, which would have expanded the Virtual Net Metering program (the program responsible for most of the state’s deforestation) without addressing any of these siting concerns. Fortunately, this bill received strong opposition in the Senate and did not move forward.

Rooftop Net Metering revisions (in 2022–S2301/H7333) sponsored by **Sen. Bridget Valverde** and **Rep. Brandon Potter** would have removed the size restrictions on rooftop net metered systems. Questions arose regarding the remuneration for larger systems, and the bill was held in committee.

Two bills were intended to correct natural gas incentives that reward the distribution utility for increasing the number of building connections. (in 2022, S2687 and S2737/H7600). They were sponsored by **Sen. Euer**, **Sen. Sosnowski** and **Rep. Joseph Solomon** respectively. S2737 passed the Senate, but neither cleared the House.

The Climate Literacy Act (in 2021–S464/H5625) sponsored by **Sen. Valarie Lawson** and **Rep. Terri Cortvriend**, addresses the very important need for helping Rhode Islanders understand our climate crisis and how we can best respond and thrive during its impacts on our environment. Regrettably, it failed to achieve traction and advance in 2021 and in 2022 (S2039/H7275).

Two relevant, but non-ECRI agenda, climate/energy bills, did not pass in the current term, but deserve reconsideration for 2023. The first is **Rep. Cortvriend’s** Gas System

Decarbonization bill (in 2022–H7621). The second is the Energy Storage Act (in 2022–S2691A /H8026) sponsored by **Sen. Euer** and **Rep. Handy**. Euer’s S2691 did pass the Senate, while the House Corporations Committee held H8026.

Environmental Justice

The Environment Council of Rhode Island is making a major effort to emphasize and address issues of climate justice and environmental injustice. It is clear that some neighborhoods and individuals are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis and are overburdened by pollution. ECRI believes that legislation and administrative actions must have a special focus on those with greater needs, including frontline communities—who tend to be Black, Brown, Indigenous, communities of color, and low-income and disabled people—facing deep inequities and decades of disinvestments.

2021’s Act On Climate (S078/H5445) sponsored by **Sen. Euer** and **Rep. Carson** has been discussed above but should also be called out here for its emphasis on justice for underserved and overburdened Rhode Islanders and the need for ensuring a just transition to renewable energy. Act on Climate sets important standards for all our environmental efforts.

This year, **Sen. Euer** and **Rep. Carson** introduced S3043/H7611. It amends the RI Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) Advisory Board section of Act on Climate to add a public member “with expertise in and representing the interests of environmental justice”, and another member is already specified

as “from an organization representing or serving low-income and/or minority communities”. The bill was passed and signed by Gov. McKee.

In 2021, S0584/H5809, sponsored by **Sen. Sosnowski** and **Rep. Scott Slater** focused on home energy affordability (PIPP - Percentage Income Payment Plan), which previously existed in Rhode Island. It failed to pass in 2021 and again in 2022 (S2182/H7530).

In 2021, the Green Justice Zone Act was introduced (S0540/H5674) by **Sen. Tiara Mack** and **Rep. David Morales**. It offered an extensive, comprehensive approach to the intersecting problems of environmental justice neighborhoods but failed to move beyond its committees in the 2021-2022 sessions.

The Senate passed **Sen. Euer’s** Environmental Justice Act (S0105) in 2021 but without a house bill or action. It was reintroduced in 2022 by **Sen. Euer** and **Rep. Karen Alzate** (S2087/H8036) and made an ECRI Priority. It would protect environmental justice communities from harmful impacts, both single and cumulative. It passed the Senate but received no action in the House State Government Committee.

In 2022, the Childhood Lead Action Project, environmental justice and housing advocates, and labor activists prioritized a lead pipe replacement bill (S2765/H8153) sponsored by **Senate Majority Leader McCaffrey** and **Rep. Morales**, which would guarantee a timeline and a plan for full, free lead pipe replacements across the state. Unfortunately, the bill was held in the House Finance Committee.

Labor & Workforce Transition

Bolstered by the formation in early 2021 of Climate Jobs Rhode Island, a coalition of union workers and Rhode Island environmental activists including ECRI members, collaborative efforts began to focus on the vital roles of workers in the transition to a renewable energy economy. This transition offers an opportunity to address Rhode Island’s chronic shortage of well-paying and family-sustaining jobs, along with creating the skilled local workforce that is essential for accomplishing the transition.

2022 did see the passage of **President Ruggerio** and **Sen. Solomon**’s bill supporting labor standards for renewable energy projects (S2740/H8074). Another bill, establishing a clean energy workforce commission (S2585/H7755) by **Sen. Louis DiPalma** and **Rep. Susan Donovan** passed the Senate but did not clear the House Finance Committee.

Further collaboration, including state agencies like the Department of Labor and Training and Rhode Island Commerce, will necessarily focus on energy and climate transition affairs during the decades ahead.

Waste

The 2021 session had eight waste-related bills. The first was high-heat medical waste facility prohibition (in 2021–S527/H5923) sponsored by **Sen. Valverde** and **Rep. Caldwell** was quite a saga. It started out prohibiting high heat incineration of all types and was revised to medical waste at the last minute, to ensure passage and block the imminent threat of the

“medrecycler” facility, which was the subject of powerful popular resistance. Deft management of this legislation was successful. It was enacted and to date has prevented the permitting of this proposed facility. However, threatened appeals are still pending.

A related “advanced recycling” bill, which ECRI opposed, (in 2021–S0254/H5446) was introduced by **Sen. Frank Lombardo, III** and **Rep. Carlos Tobon** and successfully blocked in committee.

The other two successful waste bills in 2021 were:

- balloon release act (S0038/H5376), **Sen. Sosnowski** and **Rep. Donovan**
- mandatory request-only of plastic drinking straws (S0155/H5131) sponsored by **Sen. McCaffrey** and **Rep. Bennett**

Four additional 2021 waste bills were unsuccessful: plastic bag waste reduction act (S0037/H5358), nip bottle deposits (S0562/H5133), polystyrene foam food container prohibition (S0036/H5138), and bottle deposit bill (S0106, S0220/H5280).

It is important to note that plastics are made from oil and natural gas. Big oil companies and petro-chemists spend millions of dollars annually to grow and preserve markets for plastics. Plastic does not decompose. It breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces – micro-plastics – that are everywhere - on the highest mountains and in the deepest ocean trenches. From drinking water, food, and the air we breathe, plastics enter every living body.

Lacking federal laws to limit plastics and their harmful impacts on the environment, people, and wildlife, and with state efforts blocked by industry lobbyists, cities and towns have made headway with local measures – like the grocery checkout-bag bans enacted by 17 of Rhode Island’s municipalities. For nine years, a statewide bag-ban bill has been introduced in the General Assembly, without being enacted. Finally, in 2022, Rhode Island passed a statewide retail checkout plastic bag ban, the Plastic Waste Reduction Act (S2446/H7065), championed by **President Ruggerio** and **Rep. Carol Hagan McEntee**.

These steps are critical actions and important accomplishments, but they are not enough to truly limit the ever-increasing release of plastics into our environment, especially our oceans. We need measures that require return of plastic beverage bottles, that eliminate polystyrene foam cups and packaging, that require manufacturers to bear an extended responsibility for recovery and disposal of plastic packaging, and that encourage all of us to minimize single-use plastics.

Despite the major steps forward on phasing out plastic in 2022, the General Assembly nearly passed legislation that would have allowed plastic-burning facilities under the guise of so-called “advanced recycling.” S2788/H8089, sponsored by **Sen. Lombardo** and **Rep. Tobon** and later **Rep Stephen Casey** would have redefined high-heat “advanced recycling” processors as manufacturing facilities rather than solid waste facilities, thus exempting them from many existing applicable state rules and regulations. S2788 targeted specific overburdened communities, including the Port

of Providence, as acceptable locations for these toxic, climate-damaging facilities—in direct contradiction to the Environmental Justice Act (S2087) that was passed by the Senate. The 19-14 Senate vote is a revealing indicator of environmental champions. On the House side, despite intense pressure from Senate leadership, **Speaker Shekarchi** and **Majority Leader Blazejewski** issued a statement that the House would not take up the bills because passing either would represent “a step backward.” We thank **Speaker Shekarchi**, **Majority Leader Blazejewski**, and **Rep. Solomon**, Chair of the House Corporations Committee, for keeping plastic incineration from becoming a reality in the Ocean State.

Water & Toxics

The General Assembly was unable to pass any of the first three bills in this category in the 2021 session, in spite of the two PFAS bills being ECRI priority measures, although each of the three did pass in a single chamber. PFAS, a group of chemical substances, are often called “forever chemicals” because they do not decompose. Once ingested, they persist in humans and animals. Even very small doses are toxic and cause serious diseases. They are spread by contaminated drinking water and by many products with non-stick or impermeable surfaces, including food packaging. Rhode Island has been slow to adopt water testing and efforts to reduce the use of these dangerous chemicals. The passage of S2298/H7233 (**Sen. Walter Felag** and **Rep. Speakman**) and S2044/H7438 (**Sen. James Seveney** and **Rep. Cortvriend**) in 2022 will help RI catch up with its neighbors.

Neonicotinoids are pesticides that attack the nervous system of many insects. Their indiscriminate use has led to dying-off of many pollinating insects causing ripple effects in our ecosystem and food chain supply. Measures to reduce and restrict the use of “neonics” have been adopted widely in many parts of the world. **Sen. Joshua Miller** and **Rep. Rebecca Kislak** sponsored a bill restricting the use of neonics to only certified applicators and those under the direct supervision of certified applicators—a critical step toward the protection of pollinators from harmful pesticides. Their bill finally passed in 2022 as S2299/H7129.

It is unfortunate that several other important water & toxic bills did not succeed this year. The Lead Poisoning Prevention Act (S2765/H8153), sponsored by **Senate Majority Leader McCaffrey** and **Rep. Morales**, would establish a replacement program for lead water service lines, and also require disclosure of these lead-pipe relics of Rhode Island’s past to the tenants and buyers of dwellings with such pipes. Though it passed in the Senate, the bill was killed by the House Finance Committee.

Surely Rhode Island, which has been struggling for years with lead poisoning’s serious and costly public health impacts, can create and fund a plan to address this problem. This is an issue of well-recognized environmental justice significance.

The Mercury Reduction and Education Act (in 2022-S2866/H7788) sponsored by **Senate President Ruggerio** and **Rep. Hardy** would phase out the use of mercury-containing tubular and compact fluorescent lightbulbs. In addition to reducing exposure to toxic mercury, this bill offers significant electrical energy savings,

because now-inexpensive LED light bulbs use much less power for equivalent lighting, thus reducing both electric bills and greenhouse gas emissions.

Also failing to pass in 2022 are another two PFAS bills: First, **Sen. Alana DiMario** and **Rep. Terri Cortvriend**’s comprehensive PFAS ban (S2449/H7436), which would prohibit many common but unnecessary uses of PFAS chemicals, thus reducing their prevalence in our lives.

Second, (S2447/H7234), **Sen. Felag** and **Rep. Speakman**’s PFAS Industrial Property Remediation and Reuse Act, would include PFAS chemicals in the definition of “hazardous substances” subject to the practices and rules of industrial property contamination.

Transportation

A decade’s efforts to craft a regional program for reducing vehicular greenhouse gas emissions crashed to a halt in November 2021. As gasoline prices rose, **Governor McKee** became the last of three Southern New England governors to drop out of the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), modeled after the Northeast’s successful Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). RI’s departure, at least temporarily, confirmed that TCI was on hold. This mooted efforts to pass essential enabling legislation for RI’s participation – 2021’s TEAM Community Act, sponsored by **Sen. DiMario** and **Rep. Cortvriend** (S0872/H6310), which passed the Senate but fail to gain a hearing in the House. **Gov. McKee** had identified the bill as his top environmental priority for the 2022 session.

However, after the Governors of CT and MA pulled back their support of TCI, the McKee Administration also dropped its support since at least three states were required to activate the program.

As a “Plan B”, Rhode Island advocates supported **Sen. DiMario** and **Rep. Cortvriend**’s Electric Transportation Act in 2022 (S2448/H7653), which would require the state to adopt advanced fuel economy standards from California to phase out the sale of new gas-powered cars in 2035. The bill specified multiple major policy actions to make a phase out of gasoline possible, including the expansion of charging infrastructure, offering electric vehicle purchase incentives, and requirements to electrify the state fleet. These bills were heard in the House Finance Committee and Senate Environment Committee but failed to advance.

Legislation to promote charging and parking facilities for electric vehicles was proposed by **Sen. Kendra Anderson** and **Rep. Michelle McGaw** (S2209/H7112). Both versions were held for further study.

There were also several bills related to active mobility and public transit. While none were passed, **Sen. Meghan Kallman**’s 2022 bill, S2015, did pass the Senate, and was then incorporated in the final 2023 budget to fund a year’s trial of fare-free travel on Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA)’s popular R Line.

After a major influx of federal infrastructure dollars was earmarked by the RI Department of Transportation for highway expansions, transit, climate, and other mobility advocates rallied to support a bill that would require RIDOT to

report the anticipated greenhouse gas impacts of its highway projects (in 2022—H7851, by **Rep. Potter**). It did not pass.

When this year’s proposed Green Bond failed to provide any funding for bicycle infrastructure, advocates also supported 2022 bond referenda to fund implementation of the Transit Master Plan and Bicycle Mobility Plan (H8112 & H8113, sponsored by **Rep. Teresa Tanzi**). They did not pass.

Finally, a bill that would have phased out the sales tax on bicycle purchases (S2266/H6634, sponsored by **Sen. DiMario** and **Rep. Handy**) did not pass before the end of session.

Buildings

S2700 Sub A/H7278 Sub A (in 2022) sponsored by **Sen. DiPalma** and **Rep. Cortvriend** updated an earlier version of the Green Buildings Act. It promoted use of established green building standards for State and municipal projects for buildings, structures, and property over 10,000 square feet. Supported by ECRI for two years, it was passed by the House in 2021, and by both chambers and enacted in 2022.

Rep. Potter sponsored (H7374) the All-Electric Building Act, which would have required all-electric building for new construction. The bill was heard in House Municipal Government Committee and held for further study.

In addition, **Rep. Kislak** sponsored (H7850), Building Performance Standards. This bill would require monitoring of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions of larger buildings and

would maximize opportunities to increase efficiency and reduce fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The bill was heard in House Environment and Natural Resources Committee and held for further study.

Green School Building Bond referendums were introduced (S2596/H7125) by **Sen. Hanna Gallo** and **Rep. Potter**. These identical bills were requested by Treasurer Magaziner, co-chair of the 2018 Rhode Island’s school building task force, along with his request for \$300 million.

The Senate passed a Sub A (S2596A), and the House Finance Committee held 7125 for further study. The final version of the 2023 budget included a ballot referendum for \$250 million to fund construction projects in school buildings. With an additional \$50 million from general revenue to the School Building Authority Capital Fund, this reaches the total of \$300 million for ongoing construction to address the sorry state of Rhode Island’s public-school facilities. The final budget passed by the general assembly removed several specifications, including significant incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements and expanded environmental standards to meet the goals of the Act on Climate.

Forests & Open Space

After several years of hearings, 2021 saw the passage of Public Trust dedication for municipal lands (S0172 Sub A/H5259 Sub A) Sponsored by **Sen. Euer** and **Rep. Edwards**, this legislation creates a voluntary mechanism for municipalities to permanently protect parks, conservation areas or other open space lands

that they own as held in the public trust. Municipalities often hold properties that have “conservation intent” but no permanent protections. The passing of this bill ensures that these important lands are permanently protected for future generations.

In 2022, ECRI supported the liberal interpretation of conservation easements (S2400/H7455), sponsored by **Sen. DiPalma** and **Rep. Bob Craven**, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, as a preemptive measure to reinforce the intent of conservation easements (a primary mode of protecting open spaces, forests and farmland) in Rhode Island. The bill would add a clause to the state statute that directs the courts to uphold the intent of conservation easements if there is a dispute in the future. This legislation also: 1) makes it clear that conservation easements are in the public’s best interest, and 2) refers to the funding that land trusts or conservation organizations invested to protect those important lands.

The Senate version of this bill passed unanimously on the floor in early March. Unfortunately, the House version of this bill was not scheduled for a vote in committee and did not move this session.

A shoreline access bill (H8055) was introduced by **Rep. Cortvriend** and passed the House unanimously, but it did not have a Senate companion bill. Another key land use bill this session was the Public Use of Private Lands - Liability Limitations (H8037), also sponsored by **Rep. Craven**. This bill would have amended the State General Laws to remove the state and municipalities from the current definition of “owners” protected by liability for accidents

where the public is invited to recreate. Land trusts opposed this bill, which would have limited access to open space; it was heard in the House Judiciary Committee, but was held for further study. The bill did not have a Senate companion.

Rhode Island's forests provide many benefits to our residents, including clean air and drinking water, critical wildlife habitat, improved health and well-being, the ability to store and sequester carbon, and added value to the state's economy. In 2021, ECRI supported the Forest Conservation Act (S0470/H5760) sponsored by **Sen. Ciccone** and **Rep. Speakman**. The act created a forest conservation commission to identify the most important forests in the state and seek new funding and incentives to conserve forests state-wide. This legislation was signed into law in July 2021, and the Forest Conservation Commission met for the first time in June 2022.

A key issue that the environmental community has followed for seven years running is forest loss from solar development, which is working against our climate resiliency and carbon reduction mandates. Sixty-nine percent of all forest loss in RI is from solar development, according to DEM. From 2018 to July 2021, RI lost 1,041 acres of forest from solar—nearly ten times more than any other land use. As described in the climate & energy section, a 2022 ECRI priority that progressed with robust collaboration among conservation and clean energy advocates was H7531, sponsored by **Rep. Speakman**. Although H7531 was held in House Corporations, there is growing support to enable the protection of core forests, better align renewable energy program incentives with the

state's climate goals, and address our solar development and deforestation challenges.

Resilience & Adaptation

The Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience Act (in 2021—S035/H5967 sponsored by **Sen. Ryan William Pearson** and **Rep. Camille Vella-Wilkinson**) passed in 2021, but was stripped of its funding mechanism—a small fee on petroleum products brought into the state on ships. **Sen. Pearson**, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, brought it back in 2022, as S2293. The Senate Environment Committee held it, but a \$4 million initial funding was provided from the 2023 budget.

The Budget in 2022

The budget introduced by **Governor McKee** in 2022, amended, and passed by the General Assembly contained several key elements important to the environmental community. These included:

- **Green Economy Bond:** The Green Bond was originally set at \$38 million and was amended by the General Assembly up to \$50 million to include an additional \$12 million in investments for the Roger Williams Park Zoo. The Bond contains \$16 million for the Municipal Resilience Program, \$5 million for the Small Business Energy Loan Program, \$3 million for Narragansett Bay and Watershed Restoration, \$4 million for Brownfields Remediation, \$3 million in

State Land Acquisition program, \$2 million for the Local Land Acquisition Matching Grant Program, and \$2 million for the Local Recreation Development Matching Grant Program. Notably the Bond did not include funding for farmland conservation—advocated for by the RI Land Trust Council and other advocates.

- **DEM’s Budget:** The Governor originally proposed 9 new positions for the Department of Environmental Management, and the General Assembly increased it to 16 new positions, including positions in enforcement and for Act on Climate implementation.
- **Heat Pump Incentive Program:** The budget includes \$25 million (from federal ARPA funds) for a new program to incentivize the installation of electric heat pumps across the state.
- **Electric Vehicle Incentives:** The budget leverages federal Department of Transportation funds to incentivize the purchase of electric vehicles and charging stations.
- **Free RIPTA:** While stand-alone legislation to reduce RIPTA fares did not pass, the final budget did include a year-long pilot program for free-fare RIPTA on the R-Line, RIPTA’s most-traveled line. The trial begins in September 2022.
- **Energy Efficiency funds at risk:** Environment advocates were astonished to find that the Governor’s draft budget included a \$6 million scoop from energy efficiency program funds to the EC4’s climate change response efforts. While the funding would have been used to fund the EC4, energy efficiency is our most

cost-effective tool to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Climate leadership involves the creation of new sources of funding for this work—not just shifting resources. The final budget passed by the General Assembly was amended to remove what would have set a concerning precedent. **Sen. Sam Zurier** advocated for the removal of this scoop in Senate Finance.

Governor McKee’s Administration: 2021 & 2022

After Governor Gina Raimondo stepped down from her office to accept a position in President Biden’s cabinet, former Lt Gov. Daniel McKee was sworn in as Governor on March 2, 2021. Since then, Governor McKee’s Administration has largely continued in the same direction the Raimondo Administration was headed. Governor McKee has had a few bright spots; for example, the decision to appoint Terry Gray as the Director of DEM and Chair of the EC4 was widely lauded by the environmental community. As discussed in a later section, the Governor’s proposed 2022 - 2023 budget included funding for several new clean energy programs supported by federal dollars. The Governor’s budget proposal to the General Assembly reinforced his expressed commitment for climate action being inextricably linked to Rhode Island’s economy as captured in Governor McKee and **Lt Gov. Sabina Matos’** RI 2030 Vision Document.

Although the Governor publicly asked all agencies to consider the enactment of the Act on

Climate in departmental budget considerations, the Governor’s Administration fell short in executing a “climate-in-all-policies” approach that could have integrated strong climate action with housing development, transportation infrastructure spending, and other executive priorities.

One of Governor McKee’s strongest moments of leadership related to clean transportation. The McKee Administration identified the Transportation & Climate Initiative program (TCI-P) and legislation to enable Rhode Island’s participation in the program as a top environmental priority for the 2022 legislative session. However, in November 2021, Governor Lamont of Connecticut and Governor Baker of Massachusetts indicated they were delaying their states’ participation in TCI. Because the TCI program requires at least three states to participate together, the McKee Administration signaled the pullout of Connecticut and Massachusetts meant the policy was off the table for 2022, and that Rhode Island would pivot to identify other options to address transportation pollution. As of publication of this report, no specific policy actions have been identified by the Administration to achieve the outcomes that TCI-P would have delivered to Rhode Island.

In his nearly two years, Governor McKee has signed critical environmental bills into law that were considered by the General Assembly in previous years or guided by the Raimondo Administration. For example, the Act on Climate had gone through several iterations and was championed by sponsors, legislators, and advocates throughout a multi-year effort. ECRI applauded McKee for signing the Act on Climate into law in April 2022 during his first legislative

session at the helm, after Attorney General Neronha expressed strong support for the bill as written with common citizen suit provisions like the Clean Air Act. We also commend McKee for supporting the codification of 100% renewable electricity by 2033—initiated in former Governor Raimondo’s executive order in January 2020. In October 2020, Raimondo also announced the state would pursue a competitive request for proposals (RFP) to procure up to 600 MW of new offshore wind, which Governor McKee successfully codified into law in 2022. With the sponsoring leadership of **Sen. Euer** and **Rep. Handy**, the General Assembly increased the solicitation requirement for the utility—now known as Rhode Island Energy, after the sale to PPL by National Grid—for up to 1,000 MW with important environmental and labor provisions.

Ultimately, stronger leadership from the Governor’s office will be needed to meet the Act on Climate mandate and address Rhode Island’s other environmental issues. ECRI hopes to see bolder action from the governor’s office in the coming years, regardless of who wins the November 2022 elections. In August, ECRI hosted a Gubernatorial Forum on the Environment and Climate Change, which included Gov. McKee and leading gubernatorial candidates and was moderated by Boston Globe reporter Edward Fitzpatrick. A recording is available online:

environmentcouncilri.org/content/2022-gubernatorial-forum-climate

State Agency “Act On Climate” Response

One of the key provisions of the landmark 2021 Act on Climate gave each state agency the authority to take the necessary action to help the state meet its emissions reduction mandate.

Some agencies have eagerly embraced first steps, while others have missed opportunities to integrate the Act on Climate in major decision-making in 2021 and 2022. Here’s where a few state agencies stand out on climate action so far.

Department of Environmental Management.

DEM Director Terry Gray chairs the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4), the group of state agencies responsible for meeting the legally binding greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets set by the Act on Climate. One of the specific requirements of the EC4 enacted by the Act on Climate is updating the 2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan by December 31, 2022, to produce the ‘2022 Update Plan’, and thereafter a comprehensive 2025 Climate Strategy that will serve as a working document to be updated every five years. DEM also led the RI participation in promoting the Transportation & Climate Initiative (TCI), a regional effort to invest in clean transportation options. DEM is among the first state agencies to request more staff to work on climate. We are looking forward to seeing what DEM can do with more staff capacity to lead on the implementation of the Act on Climate.

Rhode Island Public Transit Authority

(RIPTA). Although public transit is responsible for a small portion of emissions, RIPTA has jumped at every opportunity to replace its diesel buses with electric buses. After a 3-vehicle pilot, RIPTA has found the funding to electrify the

buses serving its most popular route (the R Line) and invest in upgraded charging facilities on Aquidneck Island to create the pathway to continued fleet electrification. We applaud their efforts.

Office of Energy Resources. As an agency with expertise in energy policy, OER is in a unique position to lead climate action. Unfortunately, there was a mixed bag of good and not-so-good ideas from OER in the last few years. Among the good: a budgeted proposal to establish a heat pump installation program for low-income Rhode Islanders. Among the not-so-good: an attempt to scoop dollars from the state’s energy efficiency programs to fund the work of the EC4. Addressing our state’s role in the climate crisis will require additional funding—shifting funds from effective emission reduction programs like ratepayer-funded energy efficiency is not adequate and is actually counterproductive to climate action. In addition, we need to see OER more involved in better aligning our in-state renewable energy programs, such as Renewable Energy Growth and (Virtual) Net Metering, with our climate goals, while eliminating program incentives that permanently convert forests and are at odds with the conservation of natural resources.

Division of Public Utilities and Carriers. This little-understood agency was charged with considering the sale of Rhode Island’s gas and electric businesses from UK-based National Grid to Pennsylvania-based PPL. The electric and gas utility company is a critical stakeholder in the transition away from fossil fuel energy systems, so this case had major implications for the climate. The agency weighed the proposed transaction for nearly a year, which held up clean

energy programs; in its final ruling, the DPUC stated that it did not need to consider Act on Climate, a major abdication of responsibility.

Fortunately and correctly, in the view of ECRI, **Attorney General Peter Neronha** challenged that ruling, and a Superior Court Judge agreed, stating that the law requires all state agencies to consider Act on Climate, especially in cases of such clear relevance. The transaction ultimately went through, and PPL (doing business as Rhode Island Energy) is now operational in RI.

Attorney General Neronha was also able to ensure that PPL would be required to provide a plan for how they will achieve the goals of Act on Climate, and negotiated millions of dollars of bill reductions for Rhode Island ratepayers.

Department of Transportation. Though a historic influx of federal transportation infrastructure dollars (\$750 million) has been allocated to Rhode Island from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, DOT is investing little into the implementation of projects that would make it easier for Rhode Islanders to travel without burning gasoline. The lack of urgency to implement the Transit Master Plan and Bicycle Mobility Plan is one of many of DOT's missed opportunities to reduce emissions from transportation, the largest emitting sector.

If we were to grade state agencies on their environmental action as we do legislators, DOT would receive an F for continuing to expand polluting, car-based transportation infrastructure at great expense to Rhode

Islanders, our environment, and the climate. RIDOT remains singularly uncommunicative with environmental and mobility advocates.

ECRI hopes that the Governor can provide better direction for the agencies that seem to be struggling to implement the state's climate law.

Looking Ahead

While the 2021-2022 sessions were banner years for environmental legislation in the General Assembly, this is not the time to let up. The pace at which we saw action to protect the environment needs to continue into the coming years to fully address the climate crisis. While there were some notable wins—we still lack any comprehensive policies to reduce emissions from the transportation sector or to eliminate our reliance on fossil gas and oil to heat and cool our buildings. We also need to see more work to center equity and justice in all of our collective work—the green and clean future we envision is also racially equitable and built in partnership with laborers. We will look to 2023 and beyond to continue the efforts to protect people and the environment. While working collectively and across sectors to ensure legislative progress matches the urgency to act on climate and implement intersectional and forward-thinking solutions to better the lives of Rhode Islanders and protect land, air, and water resources for future generations.

Report Card Rankings & Appendices

Overview

Members of the Rhode Island House and Senate are elected every two years for a two-year term. The General Assembly's annual sessions begin in early January and last approximately six months. ECRI issues a new Green Report Card after the second session concludes and before elections for choosing members for the next term.

The Green Report Card is based on those bills selected by ECRI for its annual legislative agenda. As they are introduced, bills are identified by ECRI's Policy Committee, with advice from ECRI members and the environmental community. Inclusion on the Agenda requires approval by ECRI's full board. The agenda bills are followed through the legislative session and their progress is monitored, promoting ECRI's participation through written and verbal testimony at committee hearings as well as ongoing communications with legislators, in hopes of gaining support or opposition consistent with ECRI's position.

Summary of Appendices

- Appendix 1: Senator Rankings
- Appendix 2: Representative Rankings
- Appendix 3: 2021 and 2022 Legislative Scorecard
- Appendix 4: 2021 ECRI Legislative Agenda
- Appendix 5: 2022 ECRI Legislative Agenda

Appendix 1 presents combined scores of Senators, based on their Prime sponsorships and Rollcall Votes in 2021 and 2022. Senators are listed in descending rank order of their total combined score. Identical total scores each receive the same rank order. Each legislator with the same total score (and rank number) is at the same level. When all with a given score are listed, the member(s) with the next lower score receive(s) a ranking next below the total number of senators who have preceded him/her/they. The lowest listed senator ranks number 37 instead of 38 because we did not rank Senator Goldin, who served only in 2021, nor Senator Zurier who replaced her for 2022. Their one-year scores did not reflect their substantial support for environmental issues.

Appendix 2 presents the combined scores of Representatives, calculated as described for Senators in Appendix 1 in the same manner as described above.

Appendix 3 includes brief summaries of each session's agenda according to category and outcomes of the agenda bills.

Several major and very important environmental bills on the ECRI Agenda passed in 2021 and 2022 – a great improvement indeed over the preceding years. However, neither session was an unqualified success. Of the 27 agenda bills in 2021, 10 (37%) passed.

ECRI’s agenda was almost twice as large (46) in 2022, but only 9 bills (20%) passed.

Appendices 4 and 5 are comprehensive reviews of ECRI’s Policy Agenda bills for the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions. The multi-line entry for each bill includes a brief “nickname”, the numbers of the companion bills in Senate and House, the prime sponsor in each chamber, the committee to which the bill is referred, the category of bill assigned by ECRI, the committee action, whether or not a floor vote occurred, each chamber’s action, and the final outcome. Those bills in green colored spaces passed and those in pale pink failed to pass. ECRI opposed one bill in 2021 (so-called “Advanced Recycling”) and again, along with two energy category bills, in 2022. In each case the opposition succeeded. These favorable results are reported as “Blocked” in green spaces.

Please note that the 2023 Budget bill is listed as a Priority for 2022, but its numerous funding decisions are not suited to a pass/fail result. Thus, the Budget results are discussed instead in the text of this report.

Of the 16 ECRI bills that failed to pass in 2021, none were defeated in a floor vote. Failure instead resulted from their being stopped in one or both assigned committees. At its initial committee hearing, almost every bill is voted to be held for further study (HFFS). Later, successful bills are voted out of committee, usually with a recommendation for passage by a floor vote of the full Senate or House. Unsuccessful bills simply fail to advance, without public records that explain why. Notably, of the 16 ECRI bills that failed, 6 passed Senate floor votes, and 4 passed House floor votes, confirming significant support by a majority of elected legislators in at least one of the chambers.

34 of ECRI’s 46 agenda bills failed to pass in 2022. 6 of these passed the Senate, and 2 passed the House. One of these, 8055, passed the House, but had no companion bill in the Senate. This was a missed opportunity. Seven other bills, which failed one chamber, had no companion bill: 7531, 2687, 7851, 7374, 7850, 7413, and 8037.

Methodology and Interpretation

The far right-hand column of Appendices 1 and 2 provides letter grades as simple indicators of legislators’ support for ECRI’s legislative agenda. Letter grade assignments, based on rank order, considers the number of legislators in each chamber. Six (A+ - F) equal sized groups are first assessed, and then adjusted so that individuals with the same point scores receive the same grade, while keeping the group sizes as close as possible to the average sizes. (6 in the Senate and 12.5 in the House).

We believe that small differences in the total score or ranking rarely indicate significant differences among legislators' environmental support. This also holds for differences in letter grades, especially when combined scores are close, as in the middle grades where point spreads are clustered closely together.

Legislators who are environmental champions have A+ grades. Those with A grades are also strong supporters of ECRI's legislative agenda. Both groups' strong scores result from bill sponsorship as well as top level voting for agenda bills. Many legislators with B and C grades had excellent voting records, though they were less frequently primary sponsors for agenda bills. Those with D and F grades often voted against ECRI priority and other agenda bills. Some of these legislators also sponsored legislation opposed by ECRI.

A full workbook containing methodology, voting records, sponsorship records, and point assignments to determine ECRI Green Report Card rankings is available upon request and on the ECRI website.

www.environmentcouncilri.org/content/2021-2022-green-report-card

Appendix 1: 2021 & 2022 Senate Rankings

2021 & 2022 SENATE - COMBINED SCORES: VOTES & SPONSORS							
RANK	SENATOR	2021 VOTES	2022 VOTES	2021 SPONSOR	2022 SPONSOR	COMBINED SCORE	LETTER GRADE
1	Euer	16	21	11	13	61	
2	Miller	20	18	9	12	59	A+
2	Ruggerio	20	15	10	14	59	
4	Sosnowski	20	18	13	6	57	
5	DiMario	20	21	6	9	56	n=6
5	Valverde	20	21	6	9	56	
7	Seveney	20	21	4	3	48	
8	DiPalma	20	15	6	6	47	
9	Felag	20	15	4	6	45	A
10	Anderson	20	21	0	3	44	
10	Mack	20	21	3	0	44	
12	Kallman	20	20	0	3	43	n=7
12	Lawson	20	17	3	3	43	
14	Acosta	20	22	0	0	42	
15	Bell	20	21	0	0	41	
15	McCaffrey	20	15	3	3	41	B
15	Murray	20	21	0	0	41	
15	Quezada	20	21	0	0	41	n=7
19	Pearson	19	15	3	3	40	
20	Calkin	12	21	3	3	39	
21	Cano	20	18	0	0	38	
21	Gallo	20	15	0	3	38	C
21	Mendes	18	20	0	0	38	
24	Ciccione	20	14	3	0	37	n=6
25	Coyne	20	15	0	0	35	
25	Goodwin	20	15	0	0	35	
27	Archambault	18	13	3	0	34	
27	Burke	19	15	0	0	34	
29	Lombardi	18	15	0	0	33	D
29	Picard	18	15	0	0	33	
31	Raptakis	14	15	0	0	29	n=-7
32	Algiere	18	7	0	0	25	
32	Lombardo	20	13	-3	-5	25	
	Zurier		21		0	21	
	Goldin	14		0		14	
34	Paolino	5	-9	0	0	-4	

35	Rogers	4	-9	0	0	-5	F
36	de la Cruz	0	-9	0	-3	-12	n=4
37	Morgan	-3	-11	0	0	-14	

Appendix 1 Notes

1. Scores for Senators Goldin (2021) and Zurier (2022) demonstrate their support of environmental issues, but each served only one year. Thus, no ranking is available.
2. This sheet includes 3-point dividends (in sponsor columns) for Senate President Ruggiero in both 2021 and 2022 to recognize his leadership that affected essentially every bill addressed by the RI Senate during these two sessions.

Appendix 2: 2021 & 2022 House Rankings

2021 & 2022 HOUSE - COMBINED SCORES: VOTES & SPONSORS							
RANK	REPRESENTATIVE	2021 VOTES	2022 VOTES	2021 SPONSORS	2022 SPONSORS	COMBINED SCORE	LETTER GRADE
1	Cortvriend	16	14	13	18	61	A+ N=14
2	Speakman	17	13	13	10	53	
3	Carson	17	13	5	15	50	
4	Ruggiero	17	14	8	5	44	
5	McEntee	17	14	6	6	43	
5	Potter	17	14	0	12	43	
7	Bennett	10	14	9	9	42	
8	Kislak	17	14	3	6	40	
9	Handy	17	13	3	6	39	
10	Morales	17	14	3	3	37	
11	Shekarchi	16	14	3	3	36	
11	Donovan	17	13	3	3	36	
11	McGaw	17	13	0	6	36	
11	Solomon	17	13	0	6	36	
15	Abney	17	14	0	4	35	A N=15
15	Slater	17	9	3	6	35	
17	Alzate	16	14	0	4	34	
17	McNamara	17	14	3	0	34	
19	Caldwell	16	14	3	0	33	
19	Felix	16	14	0	3	33	
19	Tanzi	17	10	0	6	33	
22	Edwards	17	12	3	0	32	
23	Ajello	17	14	0	0	31	
23	Blazejewski	17	14	0	0	31	
23	Cassar	17	14	0	0	31	
23	Craven	15	10	3	3	31	
23	Fellela	17	14	0	0	31	
23	Hull	17	14	0	0	31	
23	Knight	17	14	0	0	31	
30	Amore	16	14	0	0	30	B N=11
30	Diaz	17	13	0	0	30	
30	Fogarty	16	14	0	0	30	
30	Henries	17	13	0	0	30	
30	Kennedy	16	14	0	0	30	
30	Messier	17	13	0	0	30	
30	O'Brien	17	13	0	0	30	

37	Kazarian	17	12	0	0	29	
37	Lombardi	15	14	0	0	29	
37	ShallcrossSmith	15	14	0	0	29	
37	Shanley	15	14	0	0	29	
41	Ackerman	15	12	0	0	27	C N=13
41	Casimiro	15	12	0	0	27	
41	Marszalkowski	15	12	0	0	27	
41	Serpa	15	12	0	0	27	
45	Batista	14	12	0	0	26	
46	Baginski	14	11	0	0	25	
46	Barros	13	12	0	0	25	
48	Corvese	9	14	0	0	23	
48	Giraldo	9	14	0	0	23	
50	Biah	9	13	0	0	22	
50	Cardillo	12	10	0	0	22	
50	Ranglin-Vassell	16	6	0	0	22	
50	Vella-Wilkinson	9	10	3	0	22	
54	Phillips	9	12	0	0	21	D N=9
54	Williams	10	11	0	0	21	
56	Lima C	7	9	0	0	16	
57	Azzinaro	2	12	0	0	14	
58	Noret	9	3	0	0	12	
58	Perez	1	11	0	0	12	
60	Casey	8	8	0	-5	11	
60	Lima S	9	2	0	0	11	
62	Fenton-Fung	10	0	0	0	10	
63	Hawkins	2	4	0	0	6	F N=13
63	Tobon	13	1	-3	-5	6	
65	McLaughlin	5	0	0	0	5	
66	Chippendale	1	-4	0	0	-3	
67	Costantino	-4	0	0	0	-4	
68	Nardone	1	-6	0	0	-5	
68	Newberry	1	-6	0	0	-5	
70	Filippi	-1	-6	0	0	-7	
71	Price	-3	-6	0	0	-9	
71	Roberts	-3	-6	0	0	-9	
73	Place	-2	-8	0	0	-10	
74	Quattrocchi	-3	-8	0	0	-11	
75	Morgan	-2	-9	0	-3	-14	

Appendix 2 Notes:

1. This sheet includes 3-point dividends (in sponsor columns) for House Speaker Shekarchi in both 2021 and 2022 to recognize his leadership that affected essentially every bill addressed by the RI House of Representatives during these two sessions.

Appendix 3: 2021 & 2022 Legislative Scorecard

ECRI AGENDA BILLS FOR 2021			
CATEGORIES	Bills	Passed	Failed
Climate/Energy	6	3	3
Budget			
Transportation	2	1	1
Buildings	1	0	1
Environmental Justice	3	0	3
Labor (Energy Transition)			
Water/Toxics	3	0	3
Waste	8	3	4
Land/Forest	3	2	1
Resilience/Adaptation	1	1	0
TOTAL	27	10	16

ECRI AGENDA BILLS FOR 2022			
CATEGORIES	Bills	Passed	Failed
Climate/Energy	10	2	6
Budget	6	0	6
Transportation	4	0	4
Buildings	3	1	2
Environmental Justice	3	1	2
Labor (Energy Transition)	2	1	1
Water/Toxics	7	3	4
Waste	7	1	5
Land/Forest	3	0	3
Resilience/Adaptation	1	0	1
TOTAL	46	9	34

Appendix 4: 2021 ECRI Legislative Agenda

ECRI 2021 RI LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	Committee	ECRI Category	Committee Action	Floor Vote	FINAL
PRIORITY BILLS					
Act on Climate		Climate/ Energy			ENACTED
78 Euer	S.Commerce		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
5445 Carson	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H. Passed	
Energy Efficiency - Least Cost Procurement		Climate/ Energy			ENACTED
634 Sosnowski	S.Commerce		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
6144 Ruggiero	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H. Passed	
100% Renewable Electricity by 2030		Climate/ Energy			Failed
629 Ruggiero	S.Commerce		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
5762 Ruggiero	H.Environment		HFFS	no	
PFAS - Water standards & Testing		Water / Toxics			Failed
107 Felag	S.Environment		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
5523 Speakman	H.Environment		HFFS		
PFAS - Toxic Packaging Reduction		Water / Toxics			Failed
110 Seveney	S.Health		HFFS	no	
5356 Cortvriend	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H. Passed	
REMAINING AGENDA					
Climate & Energy					
Appliance Efficiency Standards Update		Climate/ Energy			ENACTED
339 Sosnowski	S.Commerce		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
5966 Handy	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H. Passed	

Prohibits solar project co-location		Climate/ Energy			Failed
474 DiMario	H.Environment		No	No	
6169 Speakman	H.Corporations		No	No	
Climate Literacy Act		Climate/ Energy			Failed
464 Lawson	S.Education		HFFS	No	
5625 Cortvriend	H.Education		HFFS	No	
Budget					
No Bills in ECRI AGENDA 2021					
Transportation					
Vulnerable Road User Protection		Transportation			ENACTED
318 Archambault	S.Judiciary		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
5093 McNamara	H.Judiciary		Rec Pass	H. Passed	
TEAM Community Act (TCI-enabling legislation)		Transportation			failed
872 DiMario	S.Environment		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
6310 Cortvriend	H.Finance		no action	no	
BUILDINGS					
Green Buildings Act Update		Buildings			Failed
760 DiPalma	S.Finance		HFFS	no	
5919 Cortvriend	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H. Passed	
Environmental Justice					
Home Energy Affordability (PIPP)		Env. Justice			Failed
584 Sosnowski	S.Finance		HFFS	No	
5809 Slater	H.Finance		HFFS	No	
Environmental Justice Act		Env. Justice			Failed
105 Euer	S.Environment		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
No House Bill			no action on 105		

Green Justice Zone Act ("RENEW")		Env. Justice			Failed
540 Mack	S.Judiciary		HFFS	No	
5674 Morales	H.Finance		HFFS	No	
Labor & Workforce Transition					
None in 2021 ECRI Agenda					
Water & Toxics					
Neonicotinoid Pesticide Regulation		Water & toxics			Failed
702 Miller	S.Environment		No	No	
5641 Kislak	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H. Passed	
See 2 PFAS bills in Priority Section		Water & toxics			
Waste					
Balloon Release Act		Waste			ENACTED
038 Sosnowski	S.Environment		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
5376 Donovan	H.Judiciary		Rec Pass	H. Passed	
Must Request Single-use Plastic Straws		Waste			ENACTED
155 McCaffrey	S.Environment		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
5131 Bennett	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H. Passed	
Hi-Heat Medical Waste Facility Prohibition		Waste			ENACTED*
527 Valverde	S.Judiciary		postponed	S. Passed	
5923 Caldwell	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H. Passed	
OPPOSE "Advanced Recycling"		Waste			OPPOSED
254 Lombardo OPPOSE	S.Judiciary		postponed	no	Blocked
5446 Tobon OPPOSE	H.Environment		to H.Corp.	no	Blocked
Plastic Bag Waste Reduction Act		Waste			Failed
037 Ruggerio	S.Environment		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
5358 McEntee	H.Environment		No	no	

"Nip" (mini liquor bottles) Deposit		Waste			Failed
562 Miller	S.Special Leg.		<i>no action</i>		
5113 Bennett	H.Environment		HFFS	no	
Prohibits Styrofoam food containers		waste			Failed
036 Miller	S.Environment		HFFS	no	
5138 Bennett	H.Environment		HFFS	no	
Deposit for Non-Reusable Bottles		Waste			Failed
106 Calkin	S.Environment		HFFS	no	
220 Valverde	S.Environment		HFFS	no	
5280 McEntee	H.Muni Govt		HFFS	no	
Land & Forest					
Forest Conservation Act (Commission)		Land & Forest			ENACTED
470 Ciccone	S.Environment		Rec. Pass	S. Passed	
5760 Speakman	H.Environment		Rec. Pass	H. Passed	
Public Trust Designation for Municipality Lands		Land & Forest			ENACTED
172 Euer	S.H & Muni Govt		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
5259 Edwards	H.Muni Govt		Rec Pass	H. Passed	
Enables Conservation Easements		Land & Forest			Failed
094 DiPalma	S.Finance		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
5472 Craven	H.Judiciary		HFFS	no	
Resilience & Adaptation					
Ocean State Climate Adaptation & Resilience (OSCAR)		Resilience			ENACTED
035 Pearson	S.Environment		Rec Pass	S. Passed	w/o Funds*
5967 Vella-Wilkinson	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H. Passed	

Appendix 5: 2022 Legislative Agenda

ECRI 2022 RI LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	Committee	ECRI Category	Committee Action	Floor Vote	FINAL
PRIORITY					
100% Renewable electricity by 2033 TOP Priority		Climate/ Energy			ENACTED
2274 Ruggiero	S. Commerce		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
7277 Ruggiero	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H. Passed	
Budget - FY 2023		Budget			See Discussion
7123 Abney	H.Finance		Rec Pass	H. Passed	
	S.Finance			S. Passed	
~ Funds for Environmental Protection					
~ Funds for Act on Climate Implementation					
~ STAFFING for DEM, CRMC, OER, PUC					
~ Green Bond Initiative					
~ Use ARPA Funds for zero fossil fuel housing					
~ Don't "scoop" energy efficiency funds for EC4					
Renewable Energy Growth ("Solar Siting")		Climate/ Energy			Failed
7531 Speakman	H.Corporations		HFFS	no	
<i>no Senate companion</i>					
Environmental Justice Act		Env. Justice			Failed
2087 Euer	S.Environment			S. Passed	
8036 Alzate	H. State Govt.		HFFS	no	<i>no action</i>
OPPOSE "Advanced Recycling"		Waste			
2788 Lombardo	S. Judiciary		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
8089 Toben -> Casey	H.Corporations		none	no	Blocked
REMAINING AGENDA					
Climate & Energy					
Affordable Clean Energy Act (Off-Shore Wind)		Climate/ Energy			
2583 Euer	S.Environment		Rec Pass	S. Passed	ENACTED
7971 Handy	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H. Passed	

Energy Facility Siting Act includes GHGs		Climate/ Energy			Failed
2179 Calkin	S.Environment		HFFS	No	
7336 McGaw	H.Environment		HFFS	No	
Net Metering - Prior Use & Credits		Climate/ Energy			Failed
2301 Valverde	S.Environment		HFFS	No	
7333 Potter	H.Corporations		HFFS	no	
Gas distribution decoupling (Sosnowski)		Climate/ Energy			Failed
2737 Sosnowski	S.Commerce		Rec Pass	S. Passed	to H. Corp
7600 Solomon	H.Corporations		HFFS	no	<i>no action</i>
Gas distribution decoupling (Euer)		Climate/ Energy			Failed
2687 Euer	S.Commerce		HFFS	no	
<i>No House companion</i>					
Climate Literacy Act		Climate/ Energy			Failed
2039 Lawson	S.Education		HFFS	no	
7275 Cortvriend	H.Education		HFFS	no	
OPPOSE revision of Energy Facility Siting Act & Board		Climate/ Energy			
2392 de la cruz	S.Judiciary		HFFS	no	Blocked
<i>No House Companion</i>					
OPPOSE Solar Panel Fee		Climate/ Energy			
7126 Morgan	H.Finance		HFFS	no	Blocked
<i>No Senate Companion</i>					
Budget					
Funds Act on Climate Outreach & Engagement (DEM)		Budget			Failed
8179 Carson	H.Finance		HFFS	no	
Funds Act on Climate PR & Communications (DEM)		Budget			Failed

8180 Carson	H.Finance		HFFS	no	
Funds Act on Climate Dashboard (DEM)		Budget			Failed
8181 Carson	H.Finance		HFFS	no	
Green School Building Bonds		Budget			Failed
2596 Gallo	S.Finance		Rec Pass	S. Passed	<i>no action</i>
7125 Potter	H.Finance		HFFS	no	
Transit Improvement Bond		Budget			Failed
8112 Tanzi	H.Finance		HFFS	no	
Bicycle Mobility Bond		Budget			Failed
8113 Tanzi	H.Finance		HFFS	no	
Transportation					
Electric Transportation Act					failed
2448 DiMario	S.Environment	Transportation	HFFS	no	
7653 Cortvriend	H.Finance		HFFS	no	
EV Charging & Parking		Transportation			Failed
2209 Anderson	S.Housing		HFFS	no	
7112 McGaw	H.Corporations		HFFS	no	
Free RIPTA Rides		Transportation			Failed
2015 Kallman	S.Finance		Rec pass	S. Passed	
7446 Felix	H.Finance		HFFS	no	<i>no action *</i>
GHG Emission Standard for Transportation		Transportation			
7851 Potter	H.Environment		HFFS	no	Failed
<i>no Senate companion</i>					
BUILDINGS					
All Electric Building Act		Buildings			Failed
7374 Potter	H.Corporations		HFFS	no	
<i>no Senate companion</i>					
Green Buildings Act Update		Buildings			
2700 DiPalma	S. Housing		Rec Pass	S. Passed	ENACTED
7278 Cortvriend	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H. Passed	

Building Performance Standards		Buildings			Failed
7850 Kislak	H.Environment		HFFS	No	
<i>No Senate Companion</i>					
Environmental Justice					
(See Priority Bill 2087 / 8036, above)					
Environmental Justice Advisory Board for EC4		Env. Justice			ENACTED
7611 Carson	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H Passed	
3043 Euer	S.Environment		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
"PIPP" - Tiered LIHEAP Enhancement		Env. Justice			Failed
2182 Sosnowski	S. Finance		HFFS	no	
7530 Slater	H.Corporations		HFFS	no	
Labor & Workforce Transition					
Clean Energy Workforce Commission		Labor			Failed
2585 DiPalma	S.Environment		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
7755 Donovan	H.Finance		HFFS	no	
Labor Standards for Renewable Energy Projects		Labor			ENACTED
2740 Ruggiero	S.Commerce		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
8074 Solomon	H.Corporations		Rec Pass	H Passed	
Water & Toxics					
PFAS - Water standards & Testing		Water & toxics			ENACTED
2298 Felag	S.Environment		Rec Pass	S Passed	
7233 Speakman	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H Passed	
PFAS - Toxic Packaging Reduction Act		Water & toxics			ENACTED
2044 Seveney	S.Environment		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
7438 Cortvriend	H.Environment		Rec PAss	H. Passed	
PFAS Comprehensive Ban of 2022		Water & toxics			Failed
2449 DiMario	S.Environment		HFFS	no	
7436 Cortvriend	H.Environment		HFFS	no	
PFAS - Industrial Property Remediation		Water & toxics			Failed
2447 Felag	S.Environment		HFFS	no	

7234 Speakman	H.Environment		HFFS	no	
Neonicotinoid Pesticide Regulation		Water & toxics			ENACTED
2299 Miller	S.Environment		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
7129 Kislak	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H. Passed	
Lead Poisoning Prevention Act		Water & toxics			Failed
2765 McCaffrey	S.Health		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
8153 Morales	H.Finance		HFFS	no	
Mercury Bulb Reduction (CFL Retirement)		Water & toxics			Failed
2866 Ruggiero	S. Environment		no action	no	
7788 Hardy	H. Environment		Rec Pass	H. Passed	
Waste					
Extended Producer Responsibility (Packaging)		Waste			Failed
2296 Valverde	S.Environment		HFFS	no	
7279 Bennett	H.Environment		HFFS	no	
Bottle deposit required (0.10 + 0.04)		Waste			Failed
2300 Valverde	S.Environment		HFFS	no	
7378 McEntee	H.Environment		HFFS	no	
Polystyrene Foam Packaging Ban		Waste			Failed
2050 Miller	S.Environment		HFFS	no	
7063 Bennett	H.Environment		HFFS	no	
Plastic Bag Waste Reduction Act ("Check-Out Bags")		Waste			ENACTED
2446 Miller	S.Environment		Rec Pass	S. Passed	
7065 McEntee	H.Environment		Rec Pass	H. Passed	
"Nip" Ban (mini liquor bottles)		Waste			Failed
2140 Miller	S.Special Leg.		<i>no action</i>		
7064 Bennett	H.Environment		HFFS	no	
Prohibits waste from construction fill		Waste			Failed
7413 Carson	H.Judiciary		HFFS	no	
<i>no Senate companion</i>					

Land & Forest					
Public Use of Private Lands					
8037 Craven <i>no Senate companion</i>	H.Judiciary	Land & Forest	HFFS	no	Failed
Defines High Tide line for public beach access					
8055 Cortvriend <i>no Senate companion</i>	H. Judiciary	Land & Forest	Rec Pass	H. Passed	Failed to S. Judiciary
Prohibits "Canned" Hunting					
2651 DiMario	S. Judiciary		HFFS	no	
7439 Slater	H.Environment		HFFS	no	
Resilience & Adaptation					
Ocean State Climate Adaptation & Resilience (Oscar)					
2293 Pearson <i>no House companion</i>	S.Environment	Resilience	HFFS	no	Failed trial funded