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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL OF RI RELEASES 2021 – 2022 GREEN REPORT CARD
A New Standard for What is Possible: The best 2 years of environmental
policymaking in RI history.**

PROVIDENCE— The Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) released its biennial [Green Report Card](#) which evaluates legislators’ records on the environment. For decades, ECRI’s Green Report Cards and legislative agendas have served as benchmarks for voters, provided essential resources for policymakers, and reflected the nuance of environmental leadership.

In evaluating legislators, the 2021 – 2022 Green Report Card takes into account sponsorship, leadership, voting records, and other factors that go beyond floor and committee votes. The narrative summarizes the performance of the legislature and Governor’s administration on environmental priorities and recognizes environmental leadership, whether it is bold or lacking, and provides a glimpse at the ongoing priorities for the environmental community.

The 2021 – 2022 legislative Green Report Card elevates the progress made by the General Assembly with two record years of environmental policymaking—back in 2020, the legislature got an “incomplete” for its stagnant response to the climate crisis. “After the legislature passed the landmark 2021 Act on Climate establishing a critical and binding foundation for the state to reduce carbon emissions economy-wide, this year’s session set the standard for the type of climate action needed,” said Priscilla De La Cruz, President of the ECRI, and Senior Director of Governments Affairs at the Audubon Society of RI.

The report card recognizes noteworthy leadership in the General Assembly, from regulating toxic PFAS chemicals in drinking water and food packaging to stopping a high-heat plastics facility to enacting 100% renewable electricity by 2033 and an additional offshore wind procurement. “The legislature made strides toward our climate goals in the electricity sector and has positioned Rhode Islander as a leader with the fastest transition to 100% renewable electricity in the nation,” said Mal Skowron, the Transportation Program & Policy Coordinator at Green Energy Consumers Alliance and member of ECRI. “Now, we need to build on this climate action to address the lack of policies to reduce

emissions from transportation, plus eliminate our reliance on fossil fuels to heat and cool our buildings.”

Peter Trafton, ECRI representative of Citizens’ Climate Lobby (CCL), observed, “Not long ago, the Former Speaker of the House proclaimed that RI should not, and could not act against climate change. What a difference a term made! The United Nations’ IPCC, and national groups like CCL, increasingly recognize the essential participation of states and communities. Rhode Islanders must work to preserve our own small part of the world for all our children and grandchildren. This is not a “fix it and forget it”, but a portfolio of important tasks to continue for decades to come.”

ECRI directs interested Rhode Islanders to consider the 2021 – 2022 Green Report Card as they look to their legislators support for climate action and our state’s most pressing environmental issues. Sue AnderBois, Climate & Energy Program Manager at The Nature Conservancy explained, “Rhode Islanders care about the urgency in addressing the climate crisis, and an overwhelming majority of voters consider action on climate change. We have a strong history of supporting investments in clean water, open space, and natural resources that help our communities become greener, healthier, and more resilient in the face of climate.”

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About the Environment Council of Rhode Island

The Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) is a coalition of organizations and individuals whose mission is to serve as an effective voice for developing and advocating policies and laws that protect and enhance the environment.

www.environmentcouncilri.org