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# Environment Council of Rhode Island

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## Rhode Island General Assembly 2002 Green Report Card

The 2002 General Assembly session was marked by little progress on many environmental issues as members faced their most challenging electoral races in years due to downsizing and redistricting. The high points of the session included the passage of two bills that had each taken years of organizing by the environmental and health community: The Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Program and Trust Fund, and the Lead Hazard Mitigation Act.

In 2002, many other pro-environment bills that were introduced never made it through the committee process for a final full vote of either chamber due to the rush to finish the session and hit the streets campaigning. Bills promoting renewable energy and safe routes for children to get to school were among the many good bills introduced that did not make it through the session. The Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) also had to work to defeat bills that were introduced that would harm Rhode

Islanders' health and the environment, including the Renaissance Development Zone that would give tax credits to sprawling development and a bill under the guise of anti-terrorism that will limit public access to information concerning our water supply.

Corporate lobbyists continue to influence how legislation is crafted at the State House. Compromises are continually being made at the cost of Rhode Islanders' health and quality of life. ECRI member groups successfully fought off corporate lobbyists that tried to weaken Rhode Island's landmark Mercury Reduction and Education Act of 2001.

This year's Green Report Card highlights the key environmental votes of the session and gives credit to legislators for introducing legislation to protect our environment. Legislator's votes on these bills are a good indicator of their willingness to take action when it comes to the protection of Rhode Island's environment.

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### Member Organizations

- Alliance for Democracy • American Lands Alliance • American Lung Association of RI • Apeiron Foundation • Appalachian Mountain Club
  - Aquidneck Island Land Trust • Audubon Society of RI • Brown University Center for Environmental Studies •
- Centerville Area Neighborhood Association • Childhood Lead Action Project • Citizens for Gloucester • Citizens for RI's Future
  - Cleanscape • Clean Water Action • Coalition for Consumer Justice • Common Fence Point Improvement Association •
  - Coventry Conservation Commission • Defenders of Greenwich Bay • Dunn Foundation • East Greenwich Land Trust
- Ecology Action for RI • Environment Council of RI Education Fund • Episcopal Diocese of RI • Friends of India Point Park •
- Friends of the National Wildlife Refuges of RI • Greenways Alliance of RI • Narragansett Bay Watch • National Wildlife Federation
- Norman Bird Sanctuary • North Kingstown Bikeway Advocates • North South Trail Council • Ocean State Fishermen's Association • Pawtuxet River Authority • People's Power & Light • Providence College • Remodel Wrights Corporation
  - RI Association of Conservation Commissions • RI Association of Railroad Passengers • RI Earth Day Committee •
- RI Federation of Garden Clubs • RI Jaycees Ecology Committee • RI Mobile Sportsfishermen • RI Public Interest Research Group
  - RI Recycles Club • RI Resource Conservation & Development Council • RI Solar Energy Association • RI Tree Council •
- RI Wild Plant Society • Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation • Roger Williams Park Zoo • Save the Bay • Sierra Club, RI Chapter
  - Soil & Water Conservation Society • Solar Wrights, Inc. • Southern RI Conservation District • The Nature Conservancy •
- URI Cooperative Extension Service • US Generating Company • Westerly Land Trust • Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

# The Rating System

Rating systems cannot adequately account for work that goes on behind the scenes at the legislature. Good bills are often defeated in committee or through procedural maneuvers that do not result in floor votes that can be counted. By the same token, bad bills are often defeated the same way. Counting only votes on the floor of the Assembly, therefore, would fail to capture the true contribution of individual legislators to the outcome of environmental legislation.

In an attempt to allocate credit – and blame – more accurately, we include not only floor votes but also sponsorship of bills, both good and bad, in our tally. For the floor votes included in the tally, an individual legislator can receive a +5 (vote good for the environment), a –5 (vote bad for the environment) or a 0 for absence. Principal sponsorship of environmental bills likewise earns either a +3 (good for the environment and passed), +2 (good for the environment but did not pass); -3 (bad for the environment and passed), -2 (bad for the environment but did not pass).

We recognize that leadership in both the House and Senate plays a role far beyond their individual votes in setting the tone for and against environmental protection. Once most bills come to the floor their fate has already been decided. Although leadership control cannot be as objectively measured, as are the votes, it is useful to remember that leadership should be held accountable for the overall tone of the session on environmental matters.

## Key Environmental Legislation for 2002

***S-2813, H-8230 Lead Hazard Mitigation Act of 2002*** - This act would create a comprehensive legislative mechanism to address lead hazard mitigation. (A yes vote is good for the environment.)

***H-7266, H7271A (House vote) Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device Act*** - This act would define the use of an electric personal assistive mobility device (EPAMD). (A no vote is good for the environment.) The Environment Council of RI opposes this bill. The bill allows for motorized scooters on sidewalks and hiking trails. Votes from 7266 were the dominant score. If absent for 7266 vote in the House, vote was tallied from 7271A.

***S-3069 Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Program and Trust Fund*** - This act would establish an interagency coastal and estuarine habitat restoration program and would establish a trust fund that will receive a portion of the oil spill prevention fees and other grants, gifts or donations. The trust would provide funding (subject to appropriation) for program administration and local and regional coastal habitat restoration. This act would also make technical corrections to the oil spill response and administration fund chapter. (A yes vote is good for the environment.)

***H-7211 Drinking Water Supply System Protection*** - This act would allow the water resources board to secure water supply system management plans and to amend the procedures for public access to those plans which contain sensitive information by supplying the public with executive summaries. (A no vote is good for the environment.) The Environment Council of RI opposes this bill. This bill limits public access to information concerning Rhode Island's water supply.

***S-2288 Constitutional Amendment for Co-equal Distribution of Powers*** – This act would create a balance of powers between the three branches of the state government. (A yes vote is good for the environment.) For the House, since no vote was taken, the signatures from the discharge petition were used.

<b>Senator</b>	<b>Lead Hazard Mitigation S 2813/ H 8230</b>	<b>Restore Habitat S 3069</b>	<b>Balance of Powers S 2288</b>	<b>Motorized scooters on sidewalks and trails H 7266/7271</b>	<b>Prevent public access to water supply plans H 7211</b>	<b>Bill Points</b>	<b>Sponsor Points</b>	<b>Total Points</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
Algiere	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Alves	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	-2	3	C
Badeau	Y	O	Y	Y	O	5	-2	3	C
Bates	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Blais	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	1	6	C
Breene	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Caprio	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Celona	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Cicilline	Y	O	O	O	O	5	0	5	C
Coderre	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Connors	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Cote	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Damiani	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
DaPonte	Y	Y	O	O	O	10	0	10	B
Donelan	Y	Y	N	Y	O	0	0	0	C
Enos	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Felag	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Fogarty	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Gallo	Y	Y	Y	Y	O	10	0	10	B
Garabedian	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Gibbs	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	15	3	18	A
Goodwin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Graziano	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Hunter	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Igliozi	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	2	7	C
Irons	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Issa	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Izzo	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	3	8	B
Kells	Y	Y	Y	Y	O	10	0	10	B
Kelly	Y	O	Y	Y	Y	0	0	0	C
Lenihan	Y	Y	Y	N	O	20	2	22	A
McBurney	Y	O	Y	O	O	10	0	10	B
McCaffrey	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
McDonald	Y	Y	O	Y	O	5	0	5	C
Montalbano	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Paiva Weed	Y	Y	Y	N	O	20	6	26	A+
Parella	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Perry	Y	Y	Y	O	N	20	6	26	A+
Polisena	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Raptakis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Revens	Y	Y	Y	O	Y	10	0	10	B
Roberts	Y	Y	O	O	O	10	2	12	B
Roney	Y	Y	N	Y	O	0	0	0	C
Ruggerio	Y	Y	N	Y	O	0	0	0	C
Sheehan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Sosnowski	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	3	8	B
Tassoni	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Walaska	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	-3	2	C
Walsh	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	15	2	17	A
Walton	Y	Y	N	Y	O	0	0	0	C

Representative	Lead Hazard Mitigation S 2813/ H 8230	Restore Habitat S 3069	Balance of Powers S 2288	Motorized scooters on sidewalks and trails H 7266/7271	Prevent public access to water supply plans H 7211	Bill Points	Sponsor Points	Total Points	GRADE
Abdullah-Odiase	Y	O	Y	O	Y	5	0	5	C
Aiken	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Ajello	Y	Y	Y	N	N	25	2	27	A+
Almeida	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	15	8	23	A
Amaral	N	Y	Y	N	Y	5	0	5	C
Anderson, M	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Anderson, S	O	O	N	N	Y	-5	-5	-10	F
Anguilla	Y	O	N	Y	Y	-10	0	-10	F
Barr	N	Y	N	Y	Y	-15	0	-15	F
Benson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Bierman	Y	O	Y	N	O	15	1	16	B
Brien, S	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Brien, T	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Callahan	O	O	Y	N	Y	5	0	5	C
Cambio	O	O	N	O	O	-5	0	-5	D
Caprio	N	O	Y	Y	Y	-10	0	-10	F
Carroll	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Carter	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Cerra	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Cicilline	Y	O	Y	Y	Y	0	0	0	C
Coderre	Y	O	N	Y	Y	-10	0	-10	F
Coehlo	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Coogan	Y	O	N	Y	Y	-10	0	-10	F
Corvese	N	Y	N	Y	Y	-15	0	-15	F
Costantino	Y	O	N	Y	Y	-10	0	-10	F
Crowley	Y	O	N	O	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Dennigan	Y	O	Y	Y	O	5	8	13	B
DeSimone	Y	Y	Y	Y	O	10	0	10	B
Faria	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Flaherty	Y	Y	N	Y	O	0	0	0	C
Fleury	N	O	Y	N	Y	0	0	0	C
Fox	Y	O	N	Y	Y	-10	0	-10	F
Gallison	Y	Y	N	N	N	15	0	15	B
Garvey	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	3	-2	D
George	Y	O	N	Y	Y	-10	0	-10	F
Giannini	Y	O	N	Y	Y	-10	0	-10	F
Ginaitt	Y	O	N	Y	O	-5	4	-1	D
Gorham	N	O	Y	N	N	10	0	10	B
Guthrie	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Henseler	Y	Y	N	Y	O	0	0	0	C
Hetherington	O	O	Y	O	O	5	0	5	C
Hogan	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	2	-3	D
Iwuc	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Jacquard	N	O	N	N	Y	-10	0	-10	F
Kennedy	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	-6	-11	F
Kilmartin	N	Y	N	Y	Y	-15	0	-15	F
Knickle	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	2	-3	D
Lally	Y	Y	N	Y	O	0	0	0	C

Lanzi	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Levesque	Y	Y	Y	Y	O	10	0	10	B
Lewiss	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Lima	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	2	7	C
Long	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	15	3	18	A
Lowe	O	O	N	Y	Y	-15	0	-15	F
Maher	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Malik	N	O	N	Y	Y	-20	6	-14	F
Martineau	Y	Y	N	Y	O	0	0	0	C
McCauley	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
McNamara	Y	Y	N	Y	N	5	2	7	C
Menard	Y	Y	N	Y	O	0	0	0	C
Montanaro	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	0	5	C
Moran	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Moura	Y	Y	N	Y	O	0	2	2	C
Mumford	Y	O	Y	N	Y	10	0	10	B
Munschy	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Murphy, W.H.	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	15	0	15	B
Murphy, W.J.	O	O	N	O	O	-5	0	-5	D
Naughton	Y	O	N	Y	Y	-10	2	-8	D
Palangio	N	Y	Y	O	Y	0	0	0	C
Palumbo	Y	Y	N	N	Y	5	0	5	C
Picard	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Pires	Y	O	Y	N	O	15	0	15	B
Pisaturo	Y	Y	Y	O	Y	10	0	10	B
Quick	O	Y	Y	N	Y	10	0	10	B
Rabideau	O	O	Y	N	O	10	0	10	B
Reilly	N	O	Y	N	Y	0	0	0	C
Rose	Y	O	N	Y	Y	-10	0	-10	F
San Bento	Y	Y	N	Y	O	0	0	0	C
Savage	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	15	0	15	B
Schadone	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Scott	N	Y	Y	N	O	10	0	10	B
Shanley	Y	Y	N	N	Y	5	0	5	C
Shavers	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	15	0	15	B
Sherlock	Y	O	N	Y	O	-5	0	-5	D
Simonian	N	Y	N	Y	O	-10	0	-10	F
Slater	Y	Y	N	Y	O	0	-2	-2	D
Smith	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	15	0	15	B
Story	N	Y	Y	Y	O	0	0	0	C
Sullivan	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	-2	-7	D
Tejada	Y	O	N	Y	O	-5	0	-5	D
Thompson	Y	Y	N	N	Y	5	0	5	C
Trillo	N	O	Y	N	O	5	0	5	C
Vieira	N	Y	N	N	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Voccola	O	O	N	Y	Y	-15	0	-15	F
Wasylyk	Y	Y	Y	O	O	15	0	15	B
Watson	N	Y	Y	N	N	15	0	15	B
Williams	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Williamson	N	O	N	O	O	-10	0	-10	F
Winfield	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-5	0	-5	D
Hon. Speaker Harwood	O	Y	N	Y	O	-5	0	-5	D

