



Fighting Climate Change by Seizing Rhode Island's Climate Opportunity

A Note from Nellie:

Due to our size and location, Rhode Island faces unique climate change challenges. That's why we need a leader who understands that addressing climate change requires an approach that tackles everything: from housing to transportation, from high energy prices to infrastructure improvements, and from creating new jobs to training Rhode Islanders to succeed in the green and blue economy.

We're the Ocean State, and with more than 400 miles of coastline, we are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change. We are also uniquely positioned to create jobs with good pay in emerging green and blue sectors by tapping into our strengths. We have to act immediately to make Rhode Island a leader in renewable energy industries like solar and wind power.

I know our state can embrace this moment of transformation and create an economy that is more sustainable and resilient—creating opportunities for all Rhode Islanders along the way. My plan is focused on meeting the moment to address climate challenges and leading our state on the road to lasting prosperity.

As governor, I will push to enact policies and invest the resources we need to support the "Act on Climate" – a new Rhode Island law that establishes mandatory reductions in carbon emissions – and ensure that our state meets the goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. Rhode Island can create a regional economic sector and expertise in new, clean sources of alternative energy – from production to transmission, and from residential to commercial buildings. I am so excited about our possibilities.

Our work to become a net-zero carbon state is interconnected with our goals for housing, economic development, and quality of life. Our solutions to these problems require an

all-hands-on-deck approach. As someone who has worked in the government, non-profit, and private sectors, I know that effective progress toward our climate goals will require leadership and cross-sector cooperation. Our solutions must be backed by data and science. Our execution must come from the grassroots and touch every community in Rhode Island. As governor, I will stand with you to face these challenges and provide the sound, reasoned, and unwavering leadership necessary to position our state to thrive in the post-carbon energy future.



Executive Summary:

The Gorbea Plan will lead Rhode Island in seizing our climate opportunity by:

- **Using the one-time infusion of federal funds to prioritize climate and energy related projects.**
- **Prioritizing coastal protection and community resiliency projects.**
- **Jumpstarting the State’s mission to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.**
 - This includes fully staffing and funding the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council and accelerating the development of a comprehensive climate action plan in order to harness once-in-a-generation infusion of federal funds for climate, energy, and transportation projects.
- **Improving and expanding energy efficiency programs.**
 - This includes leveraging federal funds and expanding energy efficiency retrofits; extending RI’s Least Cost Procurement program; using federal funds to retrofit school buildings, and expanding workforce development programs to provide Rhode Islanders the training they need to be a part of the energy efficiency workforce.
- **Expanding opportunities for wind and solar power.**
 - This includes providing critical funds to improve our infrastructure at Rhode Island’s ports so that they may be used as staging facilities for new offshore wind installations; employing “net metering”; and developing rules that encourage and allow microgrids and community solar projects—particularly in low-income communities, so that all Rhode Islanders can benefit from lower cost solar power sources.

- **Creating a modern, reliable, and affordable, rapid transit system.**
 - This includes improving express bus service, developing more mobility hubs, expanding interconnected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and providing high-capacity transportation alternatives.

- **Building out electric vehicle infrastructure.**
 - This includes adding charging stations along state and federal highways, at state owned buildings and facilities, and other strategic locations across the state and incentivizing the acquisition of electric vehicles.

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