Climate Crisis

Future Stories

A truly just and equitable climate action plan will only succeed if the community creates, controls and holds the vision. Using speculative fiction techniques, the Racial and Environmental Justice Committee created scenarios in a future Providence where policy has supported a transformed way for people to be connected to each other, the land, and the City’s fight against climate change. Nine Stories provide different perspectives of how Providence has been transformed. The stories can be heard in English and Spanish:

English

Español
Executive Summary
Community Health
Housing + Buildings
Collaborative Governance + Accountability
Lead by Example

- Upgrade municipal buildings to shift towards zero energy buildings.
- Reduce emissions from school buses.
- Expand and improve green spaces.
- Increase energy efficiency, energy access, clean energy and electrification investment dollars for low income households.*
- Create a dedicated funding stream to support implementation.
- Advocate and support statewide shift towards Energy Democracy.

By 2020, two members from the Racial and Environmental Justice Committee are on the Environmental Sustainability Task Force.

By 2025, the Office of Sustainability is actively partnering with frontline community organizations on every major initiative using a collaborative governance model.

By 2030, the Office of Sustainability and the REJC have advanced from the “Involve” stage to “Collaborate” stage on the Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership.

By 2025, all City staff are trained upon hire and have continuing education on anti-racism, environmental racism, environmental justice and implicit bias.

By 2040, eliminate food waste in Providence.

By 2050, 100% of electricity is carbon-free.

Local + Regenerative Economy

Create workforce development programs to support a just transition away from fossil fuels.

- By 2040, eliminate food waste in Providence.
- Meat annual targets of 10% of City spending in municipal purchases of goods and services from state-certified minority-owned enterprises as outlined in City ordinance.
- Increase number of enterprises in Providence that are democratically controlled and operated by their own workers.*
- Increase partnerships with frontline community organizations for workforce training.*
- Expand training and educational opportunities offered through the Providence Business Loan Fund that are supporting enterprises that are engaging in a circular and regenerative economy, specifically to people of color in Providence.*

Clean Energy

Increase access to renewable energy for frontline communities via community solar other programs.

- By 2035, 50% of electricity is carbon-free.
- By 2050, 100% of electricity is carbon-free.

Transportation

Evaluate and modify traffic patterns to reduce emissions in frontline communities.

Advocate for investing in cleaner and more accessible public transportation.

- By 2035, 11% reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMTs) and by 2050, 20% reduction in VMTs.
- By 2035, 43% of VMTs in Providence are electric and by 2050, 80% of VMTs are electric.
- By 2035, increase the number of employers in Providence offering RIPTA’s EcoPass to their employees from 50 to 200.
- Increase the number of trips taken using JUMP Boost plan subscriptions to 10%.
- Increase in public transit ridership in Providence.*
- Reduce diesel truck traffic in frontline communities.*
- Increase low-carbon transit options in frontline communities.*
- Increase sidewalk maintenance and investment in frontline communities.*

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* Targets depend on data that the City does not currently have but intends to collect, measure and analyze in order to develop achievable targets.

There are 19 priority strategies, identified by the REJC, highlighted throughout the report. The Office of Sustainability is committed to working with the REJC and other stakeholders to advance these strategies by the end of 2021.