



MAYOR BRETT P. SMILEY
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Since my first day in office, I have been focused on initiatives that strengthen our economy, elevate public safety and build a more resilient and environmentally friendly city for all of our neighbors. Investing in public spaces and infrastructure that prioritizes climate resiliency remains one of my Administration's cornerstones to improve quality of life in the City of Providence.

Energy use in buildings across the City account for most of the carbon pollution that impacts our community's health. This is why I proudly signed the Energy Efficiency and Carbon Neutral Goals for Municipal Buildings Ordinance into law two years ago, marking a historic commitment by Providence to lead by example in phasing out fossil fuels from all municipal buildings by 2040.

In two short years, we have made significant progress towards making our municipal buildings cleaner, greener and more climate resilient. Our concrete steps towards this goal have resulted in 22 building electrification projects, 60 energy efficiency improvements and audits and multiple planned solar installations, capturing energy utility savings and creating revenue that can be reinvested into new clean energy projects.

Working with PowerOptions, a nonprofit energy consortium, we have developed the 2026 Decarbonization Roadmap that evaluates cost-effective strategies to decarbonize 130 city-owned facilities while maintaining reliable public services and supporting long-term capital planning. It provides a framework to guide energy efficiency, electrification and carbon reduction investment decisions, informing the prioritization of municipal building capital improvements.

Investing in our buildings is also investing in the economic prosperity, safety and well-being of our communities and in family-sustaining green union jobs and apprenticeship opportunities.

This roadmap puts Providence on a path to strategically and cost-effectively achieve the ambitious and attainable goal of eliminating on-site fossil fuel use in municipal buildings over the next 14 years, while also creating a plan for maximizing energy efficiency measures and energy savings opportunities.

More than ever, as federal programs and clean energy incentives are being scaled back, the leadership of municipalities like our Capital City are needed to prepare our buildings for the 21st century with clean energy technologies to ensure a sustainable and climate resilient future for our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett P. Smiley".

Mayor Brett P. Smiley