



DEM Environmental Roundtable Newsletter

May 7, 2003

2003 Alfred Hawkes Award Recipient

Contributed by: M. Musselman



DEM recently announced Eugenia Marks as the recipient of the 2003 Alfred Hawkes Award. Eugenia is the Director of Policy and Publications for the Audubon Society of Rhode Island (ASRI).

Eugenia is a tireless advocate for Rhode Island's natural environment, working closely with DEM and the state's environmental community for more than two decades. She does not limit her environmental interests to protecting birds in Rhode Island, but is dedicated to improving our environment everywhere in all aspects. In her position at ASRI, Eugenia is actively involved in many environmental issues. She can be seen in the legislature debating the merits of a bill before the General Assembly. She has written editorials and position papers for the ASRI newsletter and the Providence Journal, and has reviewed and commented on many draft regulations developed by the Department.

Some of the other organizations and multi-year initiatives with which Eugenia has been deeply involved are the development of the watershed approach, South County Water Use Stakeholders Group, RI Drought Management Plan, Greenhouse Gas Action Plan, Solid Waste Management Plan and the Wetlands and ISDS Task Force recommendations. Her commitment to preserving and restoring Rhode Island's environment and educating the public has led her to a close relationship with all environmental groups in RI. Her memberships include the Environment Council of Rhode Island (of which she is a past president) and the Statewide Planning Technical Committee that advises the State Planning Council.

There will be an award ceremony honoring Eugenia on Tuesday, May 20, from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Radisson Airport Hotel located at 2081 Post Road, in Warwick. If you are interested in attending this event please contact Rayna Santoro by May 16, for additional details. She can be reached at rsantoro@dem.state.ri.us or 222-2771, extension 2409.

2002 OC&I Accomplishment Summary

The Office of Compliance and Inspection (OC&I) released its 2002 Accomplishment Summary. This report details the major program milestones concerning complaint response, compliance monitoring, and enforcement response. Here are some highlights from the three areas:

Complaint Response:

Air – The program received 969 complaints and conducted 576 inspections to investigate the complaints

Emergency Response – The p responded to 731 incidents and conducted 773 inspections.

Hazardous Waste – OC&I investigated 29 of 30 complaints.

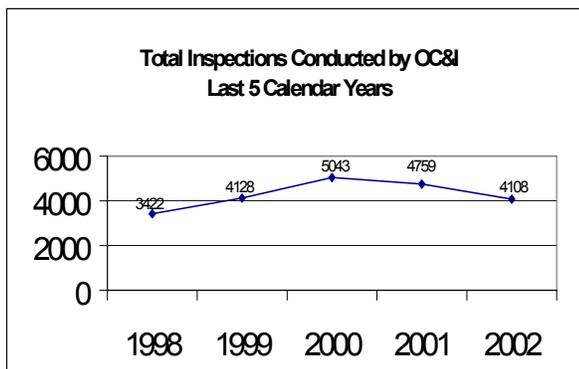
Septic Systems- OC&I received 376 complaints of failed systems and conducted 423 inspections. Water Pollution- OC&I conducted 423 inspections and investigated 285 out of 292 complaints received.

Freshwater Wetlands- OC&I conducted 943 inspections and completed 477 investigations. The Office received 526 complaints.

Solid Waste – The program completed 591 inspections and conducted 175 inspections. The Office received 159 complaints in 2002.

Compliance Monitoring

Compliance monitoring is OC&I's effort to oversee closely regulated businesses and operations. Its compliance monitoring efforts are concentrated on air, above ground storage tanks, hazardous waste generators, UST facility operations and dam safety programs. OC&I targets a certain portion of the regulated facilities and then conducts inspections to determine compliance with DEM regulations. The report details the number of inspections conducted by the program. The chart below tracks OC&I's effort in this area over the last five years.



Enforcement Response

A large component of OC&I's activities include an enforcement response to bring facilities into compliance. OC&I responds to noncompliance through either informal or formal enforcement efforts. Informal enforcement includes actions that do not result in an enforceable order or assessment of a penalty. These types of actions are taken to persuade facilities to voluntarily resolve noncompliance as quickly as possible. In 2002, OC&I issued 496 informal and 89 formal actions. Over one million dollars in penalties was collected as the result of OC&I activities.

Overall formal enforcement actions in 2002 were slightly higher than in 2001, with a slight downturn in the number of consent agreements executed.

For additional information, contact Dean Albro at dalbro@dem.state.ri.us or 222-1360 extension 7431. The report can be viewed on the DEM website located at www.state.ri.us/dem, then

click on Publications/Regulations and scroll down to [2002 Accomplishment Summary](#).

DEM Receives a Historic Preservation Award

Contributed by: F. Vincent



The Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission selected DEM's restoration of the historic military facilities in Ft. Wetherill State Park, Jamestown for one of its excellence awards at the Commission's annual conference on April 12. The \$4.2 million restoration and reuse project is being showcased in the preservation project category for its innovative and historically sensitive design and reuse of the former military facility. The fort was constructed for naval defense at the turn of the century in 1908.

The project redeveloped two of three formerly dilapidated structures into a modern marine laboratory, office and meeting space. In addition, the facility provides public restrooms for patrons of the state park. The project design incorporated improvements to the park trail system as well as substantial site improvements to this scenic coastal location. Planning for the project involved extensive local coordination as well as approval by several state agencies, the National Park Service and federal Fish and Wildlife. The project was designed under the supervision of DEM's division of Planning and Development. Associate Director Frederick Vincent, who represents DEM on the Historic Preservation Commission, accepted the award on behalf of the Department.

Rhode Island Drought Report

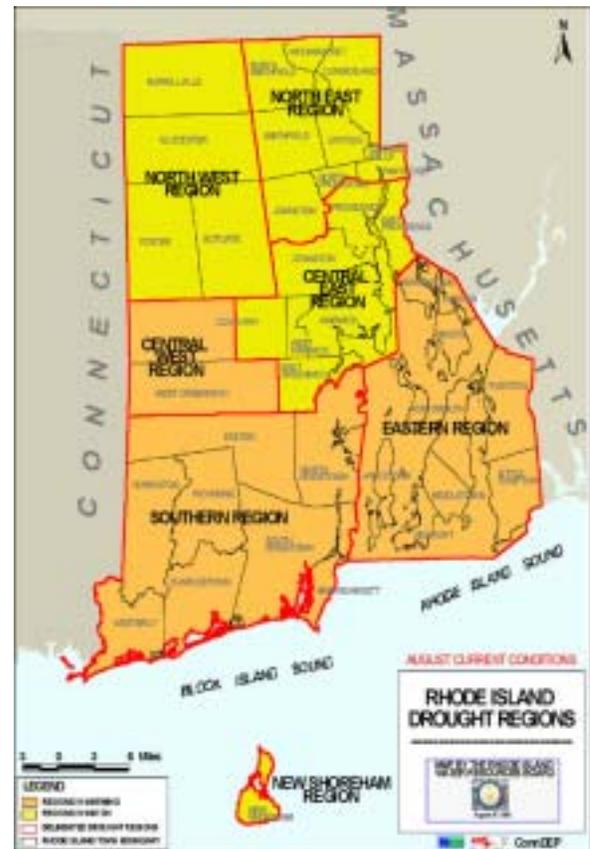
Contributed by: Kathy Crawley, RI Water Resources Board



The Rhode Island Water Resources Board convened the Drought Steering Committee for the first time in January 2002, when three of the four drought triggers (Palmer Drought Index, stream flow, and precipitation) were met for two consecutive months at the end of 2001. In December 2001, groundwater levels, which is the fourth trigger also declined in response to continued precipitation deficits. The Drought Steering Committee issued a statewide Drought Advisory in January 2002 that was elevated to a statewide Drought Watch in February 2002. The Watch was extended through mid-June due to the lingering hydrological effects from the second driest fall/winter on record in 107 years. During this period, the Water Resources Board distributed water restriction information and drought condition reports to the Governor, legislature, municipal officials, water suppliers, and the public.

The state received almost no precipitation during the summer months, prompting the Drought Steering Committee to declare a Drought Warning in three of the seven regions covering the southern half of the state and Aquidneck Island. The graphic in the first column is a depiction of the status of the state at the time.

A record number of water suppliers instituted water restrictions or daytime water use bans. The RI Drought Management Plan requires that the Drought Steering Committee recommend water use reductions for regions in Drought Warning. Rhode Islanders, including those on private well supply, were urged to continue conserving water and to avoid non-essential water-use activities. A list of nonessential water uses was adopted by the Committee, which included washing down hard surfaces, buildings, structures or vehicles, supplying water to decorative water bodies,



watering lawns, plants, and trees, obtaining water from hydrants, and flushing sewers. Water uses that relies on treated wastewater or recycled water were exempted. Water uses for agriculture or uses that ensured public health and safety received priority consideration.

In September, a disaster declaration for agriculture was declared. The Farm Services Agency and RIDEM/Division of Agriculture processed several dozen permits for irrigation ponds and/or wells, all in groundwater-dependent areas. The Drought Steering Committee continued the Watch/Warning status through October 2002.

By November, continued improvement, coupled with seasonal reductions in demand, placed the state back to a Drought Watch. Since then, precipitation has been above normal, prompting complete recovery of both surface and groundwater sources. The state was placed in the Normal category in January. Current Conditions reports are available on the Internet at <http://www.wrb.state.ri.us>.

Water Allocation Strategy Development

Contributed by: Kathy Crawley, RI Water Resources Board



The RI Water Resource Board has convened an interdisciplinary workgroup to devise a water allocation strategy

for the state. The group is exploring various facets of water supply, including water and sewer rate structures, priority uses during drought, water use reporting, regional growth planning and technical assistance for users. The goal is to create a future plan for Rhode Island's water resources that will maximize efficient water use for citizens and businesses, while conserving what is an increasingly valuable and shrinking commodity. Fresh water is a key factor in the daily life of all Rhode Islanders, and how it is used impacts everything from human health to the productivity of Narragansett Bay.

The Water Resources Board invites interested individuals and organizations to become involved in the decision-making process. The perspective of municipal officials, local planners, solicitors, major water users, private well owners and citizens groups is needed to create a comprehensive and balanced plan for the state's water supply. Meetings are held monthly and take place in various locations around the state.

For more information, contact the RI Water Resources Board at (401) 222-2217 or view the agency's website at www.wrb.state.ri.us.

Planning the Protection of 'Special Places' in the Woonasquatucket Watershed

Contributed by: J. Neil



The successful South County Greenspace Project is being replicated in the Woonasquatucket River Watershed. In

addition to demonstrating what special features need to be protected, this project will also develop specific strategies for restoration. The project kick-off took place in October 2002 and local meetings are now being held in Glocester, Johnston, North Providence, North Smithfield, Providence, and Smithfield.

The Woonasquatucket Greenspace Project assists communities in identifying and mapping their important natural, cultural, and recreational resources. These areas were linked throughout each municipality and across the region. The purpose is to help cities and towns determine the special features that are most important to protect through land acquisition, the use of creative land use techniques, or application of new approaches to urban design. Therefore, as the watershed is developed and re-developed, these special places can be protected.

Each participating community received greenspace maps illustrating their natural, cultural, and recreational resources as well as the communities' protection priorities. In addition, a greenspace protection strategy, which unites the diverse goals of local, state, and federal interests, will be drafted. The Strategy will include specific recommendations for the communities to begin implementing the plans.

As a result of the South County project, 12 applications from participating communities were submitted in the most recent round of DEM Open Space grants. Six applications were successful, resulting in \$1.98 million to preserve nearly 495 acres in the region. Hopefully, the Woonasquatucket will experience similar, promising results.

If you live in the Woonasquatucket River Watershed and you would like to get involved with preserving and restoring your community's character, please contact your local planner and ask about the Greenspace Project, or contact Jeff Nield of the RIDEM Sustainable Watersheds Office at jnield@dem.state.ri.us or 401-222-3434 Ext. 4405.

Woonasquatucket River Watershed Habitat Restoration Team

Contributed by: C. Murphy

The newly formed Woonasquatucket River Watershed Habitat Restoration Team met on April 10 at the Narragansett Bay Commission offices in Providence. The meeting brought together partners who are planning and designing on the ground restoration projects in the watershed. Nearly 20 people participated in the kick-off meeting chaired by Johanna Hunter, Blackstone-Woonasquatucket American Heritage Rivers Navigator.

The meeting was prompted by the recent completion of the *Woonasquatucket River Wetland Restoration Plan*. This plan was completed with the cooperation of the University of Rhode Island, DEM and EPA in partnership with the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council and officials from the six watershed cities and towns. The Plan along with the databases and interactive maps of potential restoration sites can be viewed on the DEM web page at <http://www.state.ri.us/dem/programs/benviron/water/wetlands/wetplan.htm>. This is Rhode Island's first watershed-based wetland restoration plan.

Historic loss of wetlands has contributed to flood damage, degradation of water quality, declines in fish and wildlife habitats, reduced recreational opportunities and loss of scenic and open spaces (Miller and Golet, 2001). Nationwide, governmental and non-governmental organizations have developed proactive wetland restoration programs to undo historic wetland losses and improve watershed conditions.

Seventy-seven potential wetland restoration sites and 239 potential buffer restoration sites were identified and prioritized in the Woonasquatucket watershed. By far, the majority of the potential restoration sites are on private lands. Eleven of the wetland sites and 18 of the buffer sites are publicly owned. Working with private property owners and developing restoration incentives are some of the challenges that the habitat restoration team will face.

The next meeting of the habitat restoration team will be May 12 (location to be determined). To participate with the team contact Johanna Hunter at hunter.johanna@epa.gov or (401) 331-9050, ext. 13.

Air Toxics Regulation Revision Update

Contributed by: T. Getz



The DEM stakeholder group that was reviewing the revisions to the Rhode Island Air Toxics Regulations completed its work on April 24. This group has been meeting every three weeks since February. The group agreed to the following changes to the regulations:

- Regulatory requirements had been triggered by the amount of toxic material *used* at a facility. DEM has agreed to allow actual emissions of the material to determine regulatory requirements when that information is available.
- The fuel burning exemption was clarified to exempt sources that burn natural gas.
- DEM will accept the information on MSDS sheets for calculating minimum quantities.

The regulation will be revised based on the discussions of the working group. A regulatory hearing will be noticed later this spring. For

additional information concerning the working group, contact Barbara Morin at bmorin@dem.state.ri.us or 222-2808 extension 7012.

DEM 2002 Annual Report

Contributed By: G. Mastrati

The Department of Environmental Management has issued its annual report for 2002. The 28-page, illustrated report offers numerous examples of the progress made last year toward meeting DEM's goals and chronicles challenges that lie ahead.

2002 was a year in which DEM responded to a serious drought, to depleted fishing stocks, and to domestic security issues, among other difficult issues. It was also a year in which the Department, with multiple partners, made progress on several habitat restoration projects throughout the state and completed a number of watershed action plans to restore and protect the environment on a watershed-wide basis. Major accomplishments included:

Fisheries

- Implemented a restructured commercial fishing license that prevents overfishing and restores depleted stocks, while respecting the interests of current and prospective commercial fishermen.
- Reconstruction of Pier 9 in Newport, home to 50 commercial fishing boats, and
- Completion of the Department's Fort Wetherill Marine Resource Management Center in Jamestown.

Land Conservation

- More than 6,500 acres - a record setting total - were preserved by state, local and non-profit partners.

- DEM provided Geographic Information System greenspace maps to South County communities for planning purposes.
- Developed five action plans to protect watersheds throughout the state, and
- Worked with the Governor's Growth Planning Council to encourage the establishment of growth centers - locally designated areas prioritized for growth.

Pollution Reduction Measures

- Developed an attainment plan for meeting the national air quality standard for ozone.
- Established an action plan featuring more than 50 ways Rhode Islanders can reduce their contribution to greenhouse gases.
- Helped communities to meet stormwater management programs requirements; and
- Issued a permit for full construction of Phase I of the Narragansett Bay Commission's combined sewer overflow system that will improve water quality around the greater Providence area and Upper Bay.

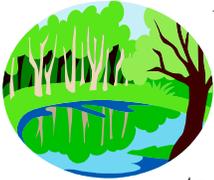
While focusing on Department's actions in 2002, the report chronicles many of the challenges that lie ahead. The drought and near-drought conditions experienced by the state over the last few years call for a closer look at the withdrawal and use of the state's water resources. The threat of terrorism has created new areas where emergency responders must be ready, making planning and preparedness more complex and critical than ever. The solid waste industry is changing. Although enforcement action led to the closure of both NEED and Global Recycling, other facilities must be regulated effectively to ensure that no new problems are created. And, restoring marine fish stocks remains a significant challenge, since most of Rhode Island's fisheries are in varying degrees of trouble due to historic overfishing and other factors.

DEM's Annual Report 2002 is a collaborative effort on the part of staff from several divisions

of the Department, under the editorship of Gail Mastrati, communications director. The report can be found on DEM's website, www.state.ri.us/dem, by clicking on [Publications](#). For a hard copy of the report, call DEM's Office of Strategic Planning and Policy at 222-3434.

Snake Den State Park

Contributed by: R. Sutton



The Department of Environmental Management has selected Carol R. Johnson Associates (CRJA) as the lead design consultant to develop the design and construction specifications of the new Snake Den State Park. CRJA is a large landscape architectural firm with a great deal of regional and national experience in the design and development of state parks.

Snake Den State Park is the first major state park development undertaken since Fort Adams State Park in the early 1970's. Snake Den State Park is presently 1100 acres of open land, owned by DEM, in the Town of Johnston. It will be developed over the next five to ten years as a metropolitan multi-use state park. The Department first started acquiring land for this park in the late 1960's with the most recent acquisitions involving several parcels of land and buildings bordering Route 6. The buildings will be moved or demolished to provide improved access to the new park. Among other active and passive recreational amenities planned for the park is a major water feature that will provide a summertime alternative to the two other metropolitan state parks, Lincoln Woods and Goddard.

The Dame Farm is a major vegetable grower and its local farm stand is located on a portion of this property. It is anticipated that the farm will be protected from the active park

development and will continue in agricultural production.

The Department has contracted with CRJA for a schematic design, which is anticipated to take approximately eight months to complete and will provide the Department with the initial design layout, projected budgets and design and construction schedules. Subsequent design phases will advance the schematic design and identify construction phases.

For additional information about this project, please contact Russ Chaufty at rchaufty@dem.state.ri.us or 222-2776 extension 4302.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment Task Force

Contributed by: G. McAvoy



DEM assembled this Task Force in early 2002, to pursue natural resource damage claims that resulted from federal activities on sites that have been listed on the federal Superfund list. Task Force members include DEM staff from the Office of Waste Management, Rich Gottlieb, Gary Jablonksi and Paul Kulpa. Mary Kay and Gerry McAvoy represent the Office of Legal Services. The Attorney General's representative is Trisha Jedele. Over the course of the last 18 months, the Task Force has put together a Natural Resources Damage claim on Allen Harbor Landfill. DEM is expected to file legal action in May on Calf Pasture Point. Both sites are part of the Davisville facility in North Kingstown.

On the Allen Harbor Landfill site, the Director sent out Trusteeship Letters on April 17. These letters are official notices to the state's co-trustees for natural resources, inviting them to participate with the State in this claim against the United States Navy. In this case, the co-trustees are the US Department of the Interior, for land, water, vegetation, and animals, and

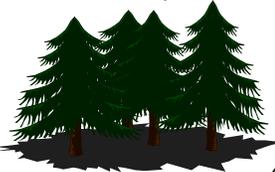
the US Department of Commerce, parent agency for National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), for marine habitat and resources.

The claim will investigate and catalogue irreparable damage to the soils, groundwater, marine shellfish and habitat, that was a result of the disposal of hazardous substances by the US Navy during the operation of the Davisville facility over the course of 26 years. The claim will document the loss of the use of groundwater, and the pollution of offshore marine sediments that served as habitat for an abundance of clams, mussels, and quahogs. These damages are the result of the disposal at the site of municipal wastes, paint thinners, degreasers, PCB oil, asbestos, ash and other toxic solvents.

Contact Gerry McAvoy, DEM Executive Counsel at gmcavoy@dem.state.ri.us or 222-6607 extension 2301 for additional information concerning this Task Force.

Pitch Pine Barrens of the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Contributed by: K. Botelho



The Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NBNERR) is one of 25

Reserves in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in recognition of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, established the system. NBNERR was established in 1980, making it the first Reserve to be designated in New England. The Reserve protects a total of 2,533 acres of land on Prudence, Patience, Hope, and Dyer Islands and 1,843 acres of water adjacent to these properties. Together, the system protects

approximately one million acres of estuarine waters and upland habitats.

Prudence Island is a world apart, but only a short ferryboat ride from Bristol. Located in the middle of Narragansett Bay, the island offers ample opportunities to study coastal and upland habitats. One of the most interesting and rare habitats on the Reserve is the Pine Barrens at the south end of the island. Although the area has a relatively low amount of biodiversity, the rarity of the species living in this area makes it an interesting place to visit.

Within the Pine Barrens you will find pitch pine forests, semi-barren areas, and dry meadows. The soil found in this habitat is called Poquonock soil. This is an extremely dry, well-drained soil that makes up only .4 percent of Rhode Island's landmass. The semi-barren areas are almost dune-like in appearance and support five of the seven species of tiger beetles found in RI including the threatened *Cicindela tranquebarica*.

As an example of the importance of this habitat, the pitch pine forest on Prudence is the only known nesting site for Pine Warblers on any of the islands in Narragansett Bay. A number of other sand-loving invertebrates live in this area as well as the rare sickle-leaved golden aster, *Chrysopsis falcata*. The dry meadows have a number of very uncommon flowers and grasses growing in them that in turn support an array of insects including the Pink-streak moth, *Faronta rubripennis*. This globally rare moth has never been found at any other location in Rhode Island.

If you are interested in visiting this unique habitat, NBNERR offers tours of the Reserve throughout the year and the Learning Center is open June – September. For more information on Prudence Island and Reserve programs please call (401) 683-6780.

Contributed by: J. Keller

As can be seen from the updates below, the greenhouse gas stakeholders and working groups made considerable progress towards implementing the six high priority strategies they chose last fall that would reduce RI's greenhouse gas emissions by 15.6% by 2020. This represents 47% of the target to reduce RI greenhouse gasses by 33% by 2020. Governor Carcieri also advanced the cause of renewable energy in his April 11 letter to the USEPA requesting expedited permitting for the proposed Cape Wind proposal to build a wind energy project on Buzzards Bay capable of producing an average of 170MW of energy. Efforts by the Rhode Island State Energy Office and Narragansett Electric are also paving the way for renewable energy projects.

Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas Action Plan Implementation Phase 2 Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)

The Rhode Island House Energy and Environment Committee will hear testimony in late May, early June on an Renewable Portfolio Standard developed by stakeholders with assistance from (BobGrace), Raab Associates and Tellus Institute. This proposal would require Rhode Island utilities to provide 20% of electricity from renewable sources by 2020. Two parts of the stakeholder version are being revised: a provision that would include (Block Island Power) among the utilities that would be required to meet the RPS target, and a provision that would allow relatively low cost wind power from New York to qualify as part of the RPS. The 20/20 Renewable Portfolio Standard would meet 8% of RI's 33% greenhouse gas reduction target.

Vehicle Efficiency Initiative Act (VEIA)

The Senate Finance Committee heard testimony in on the Vehicle Efficiency Initiative Act developed by stakeholders with assistance from Brown University, CLF, Raab and Tellus. The Committee referred the bill for

further study. The stakeholders decided to develop the Vehicle Efficiency Initiative Act after the United States Congress had declined to revise vehicle efficiency standards (CAFE). The Vehicle Efficiency Initiative Act would account for a projected 9% of RI's targeted greenhouse gas reductions. It would accomplish this by providing a rebate of \$150 per mpg on new vehicles with better than the state average efficiency of 22 mpg and imposing a fee of \$100 per mpg on new vehicles with less than the state average efficiency.

Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

The Stakeholders received a proposal from the Transit Oriented Development that had five recommendations. The working groups were convened by the Statewide Planning Program and were assisted by Brown University. The recommendations included:

- Endorse RIPTA efforts to maintain/improve transit services and infrastructure and focus service in densely settled areas and work with communities to promote transit supportive features in development.
- Develop guidance for RI communities to plan and implement transit oriented development practices, starting in South County.
- Promote and raise funding for a study of optimal locations for Transit Oriented Development in the planning for extension of commuter rail service in South County.
- Endorse the Growth Planning Council proposal for a State-Local Growth Centers Program.
- Recommend to the State Planning Council that it provide for allocation of federal transportation funding incentives to municipalities for Transit Oriented Development and growth centers.

The proposal will be discussed in further detail at the May 31 stakeholder meeting. Transit Oriented Development is projected to account

for 5% of Rhode Island greenhouse gas reduction target.

Buildings and Facilities Tax Credits, Commercial/Industrial Fossil Heated Retrofit and Industrial Targeting

Tax credits:

The House Energy and Environment Committee will hear testimony on tax credit legislation in late May, early June. Energy efficiency tax credits could account for 1% of Rhode Island's greenhouse gas reduction target.

Commercial/Industrial Fossil Heated Retrofit: The Rhode Island State Energy Office is leading a working group that has developed a proposal for Energy Service Companies to work with operators of large facilities to identify a range of energy efficiency improvements including retrofits to fossil fuel heating systems. The State Energy Office is surveying Energy Service Companies and facility owners regarding their interest and need in the service. The Fossil Fuel Energy Efficiency project could provide up to 6% of RI's 33% target.

Industrial Targeting:

Computerized targeting and monitoring of heating, lighting and processes in industry could account for up to 7% of Rhode Island's greenhouse gas 2020 reduction target. This effort is still under development by the State Energy Office led working group.

RIGHG Action Plan Implementation Phase 3

Stakeholders will meet on May 31 in Room 300 at DEM HQ to consider the next steps in implementing the Action Plan. In addition to the TOD proposal, they will consider:

- Follow-up action on the other Phase 2 projects
- Investigating undertaking new projects such as a Public Agency Energy Initiative and
- Investigating a project to reduce regulatory barriers to clean combined heating projects to complement a

Massachusetts initiative to reduce economic barriers.

Other RI Actions

Rhode Island State Energy Office Projects

Recent Rhode Island State Energy Office actions to promote and support efforts to provide renewable energy in Rhode Island include:

- The recent assumption of management of the RI Renewable Energy Fund which distributes about funding from the System Benefit Charge that Rhode Islanders pay on their electricity bills.
- Organizing an advisory committee and developing guidelines for managing the fund.
- Convening four meetings for large facility operators to learn more about renewable energy options open to them.
- Meeting vendors to aggregate their buying power to purchase renewable energy.
- Issued an RFP for green power.
- Provided training for RI electricians in technical and economic aspects of installing renewable electricity projects (electricians must oversee such installations).

Narragansett Electric Green Power

Narragansett Electric is developing a voluntary program for their customers to purchase green power that is expected to begin operation in fall 2003.

Northeast Action - New York

Governor Pataki has written to the governors in the other northeastern states to renew their state's commitment to "increase our energy security, improve air quality and make significant progress in the fight against global climate change by adopting a regional strategy regarding carbon dioxide emissions from power plants." Ken Colburn, Executive Director of NESCAUM described his action as "exactly what we (government, industry and NGOs in the Northeast) had hoped for" and a key step in providing the "underpinning necessary for a power sector cap and trade program.