



## THE RHODE ISLAND STATE ENERGY PLAN

The State of Rhode Island is actively pursuing the development of a clean energy economy for the purposes of creating jobs and industry growth, mitigating against price volatility and increasing reliability through a diversification of the current energy portfolio, and improving environmental quality by reducing reliance on carbon emitting sources of energy. This effort by the State involves the adoption of policies addressing energy efficiency and system reliability, renewable energy, and petroleum reduction.

The State, however, lacks a coherent, comprehensive, and coordinated vision for providing energy services across all sectors—residential, commercial & industrial, municipal, power generation, and transportation—using a safe, reliable, affordable, participatory, environmentally sound, sustainable, and economically beneficial energy system. In order to replace the current piecemeal approach with an overarching strategy, the State will gather data, set goals, and recommend action regarding near- and long-term plans for managing Rhode Island’s energy system. This update of the existing Rhode Island State Energy Plan (State Guide Plan Element 781) will lay out a path to an energy future consistent with existing policy at the state, regional and federal levels, but that also offers additional visionary steps to enhance the economic, environmental and human wellbeing of the State.

### PROJECT TIMELINE

#### **Phase I: Research & Data Collection (December 2012 – May 2013)**

Gather and synthesize the best available energy data; Set measurable goals based on modeling analysis and stakeholder feedback; Design an actionable implementation strategy

#### **Phase II: Preparation of Preliminary Draft Plan (June 2013 – September 2013)**

Distill research developed during Phase I into a Preliminary Draft Plan

#### **Phase III: Technical & Public Review (October 2013 – March 2014)**

Vet Preliminary Draft Plan through a technical and public review process; Adopt Plan as State Guide Plan Element

## RHODE ISLAND STATE ENERGY PLAN VISION STATEMENT

*“In 2035, Rhode Island will provide energy services across all sectors—electricity, thermal, and transportation—using a safe, reliable, affordable, participatory, environmentally sound, sustainable energy system that provides benefits to Rhode Island’s economy.”*

# RHODE ISLAND STATE ENERGY PLAN PROJECT TASKS

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## BASELINE

The RISEP Project Team will describe how Rhode Island currently provides energy services across all sectors, including an historical analysis of the impact on supply, demand, price, total expenditure, and emissions. The RISEP Project Team will catalogue existing energy policies and regulations on the state, regional, and federal levels affecting state energy policy.

## FORECAST

The RISEP Project Team will examine how a continuation of business-as-usual energy policy would shape the Rhode Island energy system across all sectors out to year 2035. The RISEP Project Team will address the impact on supply, demand, price, total expenditure, and emissions if only existing policies remain in place and no measures are taken to change the current resource mix.

## RESOURCES

The RISEP Project Team will assess potential supply, demand, and infrastructure resources available to the State to meet future energy needs for each sector. The RISEP Project Team will reference a wealth of existing studies and analyses, as well as synthesize new available information.

## SCENARIOS

The RISEP Project Team will compare a set of alternative energy future scenarios against the business-as-usual forecast in order to quantify the benefits and drawbacks of different courses of action. Modeling will test how well each scenario meets the State's criteria of a safe, reliable, affordable, participatory, environmentally sound, sustainable and economically beneficial energy future in all sectors out to year 2035.

## GOALS

The RISEP Project Team will work with the Advisory Council to spell out quantifiable targets for the aspirational mix of supply and demand resources that could be used to provide energy services out to year 2035 based on the results of the scenario modeling and stakeholder feedback.

## ROADMAP

The RISEP Project Team will work with subject matter experts in the energy field and stakeholders to recommend concrete near- and long-term policy options designed to attain the Plan goals, using an integrated approach combining, but not limited to outreach and planning, finance and funding, innovation and expertise, and regulatory policy and structures.

## REVISIONS

The RISEP Project Team will outline mechanisms for revising the Plan in order to monitor progress towards goals and reevaluate and adjust recommendations over time.