

**STATE PLANNING COUNCIL
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Supplement to Agenda Item #4

November 2, 2012

Update of State Guide Plan 781, *Rhode Island Energy Plan 2002*

Energy is an important natural resource to the future of our state. The use, conservation, management, and production of energy are essential aspects of Rhode Island's economic prosperity. Energy topics also have significant influences in other areas in the planning realm such as land use, transportation and housing.

The intent of this task is to create an updated State Guide Plan (SGP) Element. This task was previously presented to the Committee and Council in late 2010. Work on the Interim Terrestrial Wind Siting Guidelines and participating in the Renewable Energy Siting Partnership of the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center took precedence over the update however.

The Division of Planning is now pleased to refocus its efforts on this task. A Memorandum of Understanding has been created with the Office of Energy Resources of the Department of Administration (OER) to undertake this work (see enclosure). In addition, OER will be working with the University of Rhode Island Out Reach Center to complete the project.

As part of procedures, responsibilities, and resources agreed upon for the preparation of this Plan update, an advisory committee has been formed by OER to guide this work. The Committee represents different stakeholders of the energy policy and regulation arenas. The Advisory Committee will meet for the first time at the end of this month. The members are detailed on the second page of this supplement. Also, the OER staff members, Marion Gold and Chris Kearns, the RI Economic Development Corporation staff, Hannah Morini, and the Division of Planning Land Use staff members, Nancy Hess and Paul Gonsalves, will serve on a Project Team to oversee the work of URI and the Advisory Committee.

Danny Musher, Project Manager, from the University of Rhode Island Outreach Center will be present to give an informational presentation on this task. The presentation will describe the initial scope of work, timeline, and outline of the proposed contents of the Update (see enclosure). In addition, pages three and four of this supplement provide more detailed information on the scope of work. The final content of the Update will evolve through the Advisory Committee meetings. It is anticipated that the Update will replace the seven existing energy goals, formulate modern policies and foster new actions essential to addressing energy efficiency and system reliability, renewable energy, and petroleum reliance reduction.

Procedurally, the OER will forward a recommended preliminary draft plan, as agreed to by the Advisory Committee, to the Technical Committee for review. The Update will ultimately go to the State Planning Council for public hearing and approval per the SGP approval process. It is anticipated this item will return to the Committee in late spring/ early summer of 2013.

If members have any questions before the meeting, please call Nancy Hess, Supervising Land Use Planner at 222-6480 or Paul Gonsalves, Senior Land Use Planner at 222-1756.

ACTION REQUESTED: None. Item is informational.

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Rhode Island State Energy Plan – Advisory Council Invitees

The OER will convene the Advisory Council on a monthly basis to evaluate and provide feedback on research and recommend Topical Subcommittees as needed

	Representative	Affiliation	Role
1.	Abigail Anthony	<i>ENE (Environment Northeast)</i>	Energy
2.	Beth Cotter	<i>House Policy Office</i>	Policymakers
3.	Bill Ferguson	<i>The Energy Council of Rhode Island (TEC-RI)</i>	Large energy users
4.	Bob Ballou	<i>RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)</i>	Environment
5.	Bob Chew	<i>RCHEW Energy Consulting</i>	Small developers
6.	Channing Jones	<i>Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI)</i>	Environment
7.	Jack Leyden	<i>RI Building Code Commission (RIBCC)</i>	Buildings
8.	Jeff Broadhead	<i>Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC)</i>	Suburban/Rural Municipalities
9.	Jerry Elmer	<i>CLF (Conservation Law Foundation)</i>	Energy Law
10.	Jon Hagopian	<i>RI Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (RIDPUC)</i>	Ratepayers
11.	Julian Dash	<i>Clean Energy Development LLC</i>	Energy Financing
12.	Julie Gill	<i>Oil Heat Institute</i>	Oil and Heating
13.	Kenneth Payne	<i>RI Agricultural Partnership</i>	Energy and Planning
14.	Marie Ganim	<i>Senate Policy Office</i>	Policymakers
15.	Michael Ryan	<i>National Grid</i>	Utilities – Electric and Gas
16.	Nick Ucci	<i>RI Public Utilities Commission (RIPUC)</i>	Utility regulator
17.	Phillip Kydd	<i>RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT)</i>	Transportation
18.	Robert Tormey	<i>NERC Solar</i>	Large developers
19.	Sheila Dormody	<i>City of Providence Office of Sustainability</i>	Urban Municipalities
20.	Wendy Lucht	<i>Ocean State Clean Cities Coalition (OSCCC)</i>	Transportation

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS



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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 safe, reliable, least-cost, environmentally sound, sustainable, and where appropriate, in-State resources. In order to replace the current piecemeal approach with an overarching strategy, the State desires to 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 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.

Gather Data: Analyze and quantify the amount, cost, supply, and environmental effects of all forms of energy resources—currently used, and potentially available to use—within all sectors in Rhode Island.

Set Goals: Identify measurable targets for providing energy services using a resource mix that meets a set of criteria advancing the health, environmental, economic, and human wellbeing of the people, communities, and environment of Rhode Island.

Recommend Action: Design a comprehensive implementation strategy to meet the goals of the Plan through public, private, and individual efforts, consistent with existing policy requirements at the local, state, regional, and federal level.

CONTACT: Chris Kearns, OER
TIMELINE: March 31, 2014

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Rhode Island State Energy Plan Research Tasks

BASELINE

OER 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. OER will catalogue existing energy policies and regulations on the state, regional, and federal levels affecting state energy policy.

FORECAST

OER 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. OER 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

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

GOALS

OER will 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 input from subject matter experts in the energy field and stakeholder feedback.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

OER will compare the supply, demand, price, total expenditure, and emissions impact of the goals to test whether they meet the State's criteria of a safe, reliable, least-cost, environmentally sound, and sustainable energy future in all sectors out to year 2035. Goals will be adjusted accordingly to maximize economic, environmental and human wellbeing of the State.

ROADMAP

OER 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. This implementation strategy will be consistent with existing policies at the state, regional, and federal levels, but will also offer additional visionary steps to enhance the economic, environmental and human wellbeing of the State. OER will outline mechanisms for revising the Plan in order to monitor progress towards goals and reevaluate and adjust recommendations over time