

# STATEWIDE PLANNING e-NEWS

Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program • One Capitol Hill • Providence, RI 02908 • 401.222.7901 • fax

## A New Chapter....

After 10 years here as Associate Director of the Division of Planning, and 25 years in the City of Cranston (20 as its Director of Planning), I have decided to retire from state service in early December.

Throughout these years I have considered myself to be very fortunate.....fortunate to have had many professional mentors who helped me in my career, and in turn to have been able to serve as a mentor to students entering the profession, so many of whom have gone to rewarding careers of their own.....fortunate to have served as planning director under three Mayors, each unique, but all of whom valued the importance of planning in their city...fortunate to have served three gubernatorial administrations, and reported directly to six outstanding Directors of Administration. I have been most fortunate to work with outstanding support staffs, both in Cranston and here at the Division of Planning. Because of that support, I'm proud of the accomplishments that I can look back on. These range from major redevelopment and new development initiatives to state guide plan elements varied in scope from transportation to water policy, solid waste, energy, housing and economic development. All of these involved a team effort. And the team is much broader than just government. I have tried to build relationships with non profits, foundations, special interest groups, and elected officials. Perhaps most importantly I have always thought of Rhode Island's cities and towns as 'our clients' and have worked in my time with the state to be a better partner with them, to work toward common goals, always cognizant of the fact that our ability to help guide growth and change means little if not implemented at the local level.



I came to Rhode Island 37 years ago to go to graduate school. I never left. With all of its quirks and qualities, I think one thing that the planning community shares is a love for Rhode Island, a desire to preserve what keeps it different, while promoting its development in a manner that strengthens its soul...and at the same time seeking to expand opportunities for growth to all. That's a tall order, and the work will never be 'done'. Projects may begin and end, but the planning process doesn't. It needs constant refreshment with new ideas and yes, new people.

Time for me to turn the page and see how the next chapter reveals itself. I have enjoyed a great career, and you've all played a part in making it great. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. And yes, I will still be around....

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### Statewide Planning's Committee Meetings

[State Planning Council](#) , November 12, 2015, 9:00 a.m.,  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, Conference Room A

[Technical Committee](#), November 6, 2015, 9:00 a.m.,  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, Conference Room A

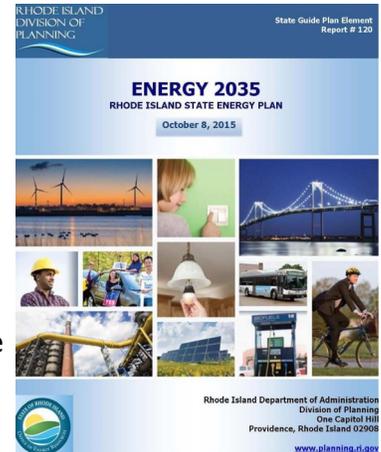
[Transportation Advisory Committee](#) November 19, 2015,  
6:30 p.m., One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, Conference Room A

## State Guide Plan Element Update: *Energy 2035* RI State Energy Plan

The State Planning Council approved an update to the State Guide Plan on October 8, 2015. The Update replaces the State Guide Plan Element 781, RI Energy Plan, from 2002. The new State Guide Plan Element, ***Energy 2035***, sets forth goals and policies for managing our energy system over a 20 year time period. The Update was completed with the assistance of the Department of Administration's Office of Energy Resources.

Energy is a vital part of our State's economy and environment. Everyone uses energy and we depend on reliable access to energy every day. Energy supplies our electrical, heating, cooling and transportation needs. The Update offers options to manage our energy system in order to achieve the vision of a secure, cost-effective, and sustainable energy future. The activities that are needed to keep the energy system on which we depend are identified as well as the actions which are needed for the responsible maintenance of the system.

To meet the goals set forth in the Vision under the 3 themes of security, cost-effectiveness and sustainability, performance measure targets were adopted. ***Energy 2035*** recommends a framework, composed of 20 strategies under the 3 themes and further divided under 6 major policy areas. Both the State and municipalities will play a key role in helping achieve the Vision. An overall policy for both to lead by example through actions which encourage investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and alternative transportation is included. Suggested potential but not mandatory energy implementation actions for municipalities to consider within their comprehensive community plans were also identified. **More information and the full Element is available on the Division of Planning's [website](http://www.planning.ri.gov).**



Municipal Energy Sectors	Sample Implementation Actions
Energy Efficiency and Buildings	Conduct a municipal energy use baseline and develop a plan to reduce public sector energy consumption
	Seek Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) designation for the community
Renewable Energy	Adopt zoning and siting standards for renewable energy projects
	Use an expedited application and permit process for renewable energy facilities
Transportation and Land Use	Replace end-of-life municipal-owned vehicles with high fuel efficiency and/or electric vehicles
	Adopt zoning and land use policies that preserve open space and promote compact growth

### Honoring Eugenia Marks RI Audubon Society

The Audubon Society hosted an annual meeting on Sunday, October 18, 2015 in tribute to Eugenia Marks' retirement at the end of the year. Eugenia served for a few decades on the State Planning Council's Technical Committee. We would like to congratulate her on her retirement and thank her for her many years of vision, leadership and dedication to making the State of Rhode Island a better place. Her efforts have helped the Division of Planning with many projects over the years, all of which were improved by her involvement. The Division of Planning wishes her good health and luck in her retirement.

### We're Here to Help

One of the central missions of the [Statewide Planning Program](http://www.planning.ri.gov) is to enable cities and towns to create great communities.

The staff of the Statewide Planning Program is here to help, with everything from document review to data gathering, fact checking to facilitation. Our staff has expertise in a variety of topics, including GIS and mapping, public participation, data analysis, redevelopment planning and urban design.

If you think your community could benefit from the assistance of the Statewide Planning Program, contact Jared Rhodes at 222-5772 or [Jared.Rhodes@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Jared.Rhodes@doa.ri.gov).

State of Rhode Island  
**Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission**

### Call for Ideas

The [31st Annual R.I. Statewide Historic Preservation Conference](#) will take place on Saturday, April 30, 2016 in North Kingstown and Exeter. Have a suggestion for a conference workshop, tour, or speaker? Workshops run 75 minutes long and focus on topics like village revitalization, sea level rise, local history, archaeology, etc. Tours run 1.25, 2.5, or 3 hours long. To share your idea, [email Sarah Zurier](#). If you are suggesting a topic for a tour or workshop, please include the names of potential speakers or organizations that might participate.

### Certified Local Government Grants

Applications for the FY 2016 grants are available now and due by December 11, 2015. The Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission administers a Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Program for municipal historical preservation activities. The following eighteen Rhode Island communities are Certified Local Governments: Bristol, Coventry, Cranston, Cumberland, East Greenwich, East Providence, Gloucester, Hopkinton, Narragansett, New Shoreham, Newport, North Kingstown, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Providence, South Kingstown, and Warwick.

[CLG grants](#) can assist a wide range of projects, from National Register (NR) nominations to underwater archaeology. For more information about applying for a CLG grant or CLG certification, please email [Katy Jurczyk](#) or call her at (401)222-4131.

### Ribbon-Cutting at Eisenhower House in Newport

State Representative Marvin L. Abney and representatives from the R.I. Department of Administration, the R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, and the Newport Chamber of Commerce recently gathered on the porch of Eisenhower House in scenic Fort Adams State Park for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of a \$2.16 million project to restore and upgrade the facility. The historic venue is ready to host a wide variety of functions at a range of rates throughout the year. For more information, visit [www.eisenhowerhouse.com](http://www.eisenhowerhouse.com) or contact Joan Kelly at (401) 847-6740.

## URI Landscape Architecture Lectures 2015-2016

- November 19, Kim Mathews, ASLA, Partner, Mathews Nielsen, New York, NY.  
Title: Contemporary Landscape Practice: Transformation through Design
- Dec 3, Erin Muir, Partner, The Figure Ground Studio, NY and RI and Nicholas Healy, CRJA/IBI Group, Boston, MA. Title: "Covering ground from Portland, Oregon to Abu Dhabi, UAE: Young practitioners reflect on water, resilience and design"
- March 3, Toby Wolf, Principal, Wolf Landscape Architecture Westwood, MA. Title: Just enough wildness: Designing places that connect people with the natural world"
- March 31, Chris Reed, STOSS Landscape Urbanism, Boston, MA. April 14 Emily McCoy, Andropogon, Philadelphia, PA. Title: Craft, Research, and Practice: performance-based design in landscape architecture.
- April 28, Catherine Seavitt, ASLA, AIA LEED-AP, Catherine Seavitt Studio, NY, NY. Title: "Shifting Sands: Sedimentary Cycles for Jamaica Bay"

Lectures begin at 7:00 P.M. and are held in the Weaver Auditorium on the Kingston Campus of URI. This series is co-sponsored by The College of Arts and Sciences, and the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Catherine Seavitt lecture is being co-sponsored by Rhode Island Sea Grant. All lectures are free and open to the public. The lecture halls are handicapped accessible. General questions about the series may be directed to 874-2983 or to [wagre@uri.edu](mailto:wagre@uri.edu).



### WTS-Rhode Island Professional Development Event WBE/MBE/DBE Guidance

Join WTS-Rhode Island and our invited guests for a workshop on the WBE/DBE/MBE process. Our speakers from the Rhode Island Departments of Transportation and Administration will discuss the certification process, including re-certification, and will address concerns and answer questions about the process. The event will take place on Wednesday, November 4 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM at Flemings Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar in Providence, RI. To register for this event, please contact Christine Ann Palmer at (508) 823-2245 or [wtsrhodeisland@gmail.com](mailto:wtsrhodeisland@gmail.com). For the Professional Development Event flyer, click [http://www.wtsinternational.org/assets/80/17/Professional\\_Development\\_Event.pdf](http://www.wtsinternational.org/assets/80/17/Professional_Development_Event.pdf)

**REED ET AL. v. TOWN OF GILBERT, ARIZONA, ET AL: Sign Ordinance Case Law Continues to Evolve**

All municipalities should be aware of REED ET AL. v. TOWN OF GILBERT, ARIZONA, ET AL, a Supreme Court ruling decided June 18, 2015. In brief, a church in Arizona holds its services in different locations each week, and puts up temporary directional signage to guide its congregants. The Town of Gilbert found the church in violation of the local sign ordinance for keeping these signs out too long. The church responded that this was a violation of their First Amendment right to free speech. As it happens, the Town had different standards for the size and posting duration of different types of temporary, non-commercial signs, whether political, directional, ideological, etc. While the lower courts found in favor of the Town, the Supreme Court ruled 9-0 in favor of the church. They found that having different standards for signage based on the content of the sign is strictly unconstitutional. In other words, the same standards need to be applied to political yard signs as are applied to directional signs for a church or a festival. Based on the majority ruling, we suspect that many if not most of Rhode Island municipalities' sign ordinances would not hold up to this strict standard.

We encourage all local planners to read through the majority ruling, as well as the 3 concurring opinions, and talk to your lawyers about your options. We also encourage you to read the blog post (link below) from the UNC School of Government, which succinctly lays out the legal issues, as well as the remaining ambiguities, given the very different rationales presented in the concurring opinions.

The one clear thing that all nine justices agreed upon is that arbitrary differences in standards for signs based on their content is strictly unconstitutional. All municipalities should review their sign ordinances for such arbitrary differences, and seek to address them. Beyond that, it is likely that additional court cases will be needed before there is full clarity on some of the finer points of the majority ruling. Again, we encourage all of you to at least start this conversation with your lawyers and give your sign ordinances a thorough read in light of this ruling.

Full ruling and concurring opinions: [http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/13-502\\_90lb.pdf](http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/13-502_90lb.pdf)

UNC School of Government Blog Post: <http://canons.sog.unc.edu/?p=8167>

**Inclusionary Zoning Guidance**

A new handbook, now available to Rhode Island planners and the public, examines the use of inclusionary zoning to promote affordable housing and serves as an update to the inclusionary zoning handbook developed in 2006. This edition of the handbook was provided in response to the updated statute pertaining to inclusionary zoning: R.I.G.L. §45-24-46.1. As part of the State's Sustainable Communities grant, technical assistance funding was provided to Rhode Island Housing to develop this guidance. The effort included outreach to local planners, builders, attorneys, and real estate professionals to gain insight into technical issues and hear stories about successes and shortcomings of existing ordinances. This handbook should serve as a useful tool for any municipality looking to establish inclusionary zoning for the first time, or those who are working to update existing ordinances to be in compliance with R.I.G.L §45-24-46.1.

This document can be found on the SPP website at: [http://www.planning.ri.gov/documents/sustainable/2015/FINAL\\_Inclusionary\\_Zoning\\_10\\_7\\_15.pdf](http://www.planning.ri.gov/documents/sustainable/2015/FINAL_Inclusionary_Zoning_10_7_15.pdf)



## Cool, crisp, clear...safe to drink?

Learn how to protect your private well water.

### Free workshop for private well owners

Protect yourself, your family, your property and your investment.

#### Learn:

- The importance of regular testing
  - How to protect your well water from pollution
  - Proper well maintenance
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2015 from 6 – 7 PM at Hopkinton Town Hall, Hopkinton, RI**

To register, call URI at 401-874-4918. Space is limited; pre-registration is required.  
For more information on private well protection, see: [www.riweltesting.org](http://www.riweltesting.org)

These workshops are conducted by the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension Water Quality Program and the RI Department of Health. Funding provided by the RI Department of Health Capacity Development Program.

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND





## RHODE ISLAND SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS AND ENVIRONMENTAL BUSINESS COUNCIL OF RHODE ISLAND

**NOVEMBER 4, 2015  
5:30 to 8:30 PM**



### FALL NETWORKING EVENT-TRINITY BREWHOUSE

**Thank you to  
Globalcycle, Inc.  
for their sponsorship!**



RISEP thanks **Globalcycle, Inc.** for generously sponsoring our email announcements through December 2015.

**Globalcycle, Inc.** is the only permitted commercial water treatment and recycling facility in Massachusetts producing treated "reusable" water for industrial applications.

**Globalcycle** accepts various non-RCRA/TSCA/MADEP-regulated industrial wastewaters from off-site sources in containers, totes, and bulk, and recycles it into a reusable non-potable water source. Please visit their web site, [www.globalcycleinc.com](http://www.globalcycleinc.com) for more detailed information.

**Globalcycle, Inc.**  
700 Richmond Street  
Taunton, MA 02718  
508-828-1005



**Join Our Mailing List!**

**Dear RISEP Members and Friends,**

Come join RISEP and the EBC Rhode Island Chapter for a very special evening of networking where you will have the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones while enjoying the array of award winning food and beer offered by Trinity Brewhouse, 186 Fountain Street, Providence. In addition, you can take a few minutes to go on a tour of the brewery. This promises to offer a great opportunity to extend your professional network in a unique, relaxed, and charming setting.

Come join us for a very special evening of networking where you will have the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones while enjoying an evening of appetizers and beer. We welcome you to sponsor this event at the Gold, Silver or Bronze level, which you can do at the registration link below or by contacting Dan Lanier or Rick Carlone.

**[Register Here](#)**

**Register by November 2, 2015**

RISEP is a nonprofit corporation formed in 1989 to encourage and facilitate the development and support of the environmental services industry in Rhode Island.

More information about our organization is available at [www.risep.org](http://www.risep.org).



**Rhode Island**  
**Department of Environmental Management**  
235 Promenade Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767

## News Release

**For Release:** October 20, 2015

**Contact:** Gail Mastrati 222-4700 ext. 2402

### DEM ISSUES REMINDER TO PLAN FOR SNOW DISPOSAL SITES IN ADVANCE OF WINTER SEASON

PROVIDENCE – In advance of the winter season, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is reminding state agencies, municipalities and businesses to begin planning for potential snow disposal sites. Finding a suitable place to store the snow collected from roadways, parking lots and sidewalks can pose a significant challenge. DEM has developed [guidelines](#) to assist these agencies with identifying, preparing and maintaining appropriate disposal sites for snow and ice.

“By working together in the state to manage snow storage this past winter, we were able to avoid depositing snow in our waterways,” said DEM Director Janet Coit. “Given the record amounts of snowfall, this was quite a feat, but extremely important to the health of our waters. Looking ahead, we encourage municipalities and businesses to once again be proactive and reach out to us for help as they begin this important planning.”

Collected snow that is contaminated by road salt, sand, litter and automotive pollutants can pose threats to the environment and public health. There are several steps that can be taken to minimize these impacts, including selecting a disposal site that is on or adjacent to a pervious surface in an upland area (such as available gravel parking areas, fields, etc.) being careful to avoid water resources and wells. In such areas, snow melt will filter into the soil, leaving behind sand and other debris which should then be removed by the spring thaw.

It is also important to prepare and maintain these sites properly by installing silt fencing or sediment barrier, installing a vegetative buffer between the site and nearby waters, and clearing away debris prior to and following using the area for snow collection.

Under normal winter conditions, storage and disposal of snow should be done exclusively in upland areas and not in or adjacent to waterbodies or wetlands. For more tips and information, including emergency disposal procedures, visit [www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov) for the [Snow Disposal Policy](#) or contact Brian Lafaille at 222-4700 ext. 7731 or via email at [brian.lafaille@dem.ri.gov](mailto:brian.lafaille@dem.ri.gov).