

**JULY  
12**

**JULY 12 • 1-4PM  
GREENVILLE RI**



**PROGRAM  
BOOK**

# **PICNIC FOR THE PLANET**



**CLIMATE ACTION RHODE ISLAND  
SUMMER FUNDRAISER**



Climate Action Rhode Island • 350 RI

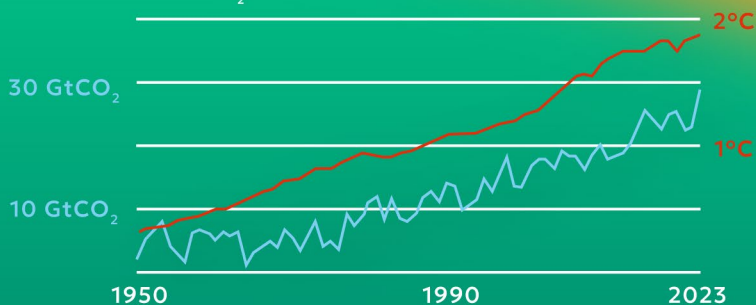
CARI ORGANIZES TO  
DEMAND CLIMATE ACTION

WE FIGHT TO END  
FOSSIL FUELS AND  
SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY



WE NEED CLIMATE  
ACTION NOW

MORE CO<sub>2</sub> EQUALS TEMPERATURE INCREASE



# LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Climate Action Community,

This past year has been one of both profound challenges and growth for Climate Action Rhode Island.

Like many in the climate movement, we have felt the heartbreak of policy setbacks at the federal level, and closer to home, only one of our priority bills related to net metering passed the Rhode Island legislature. Even in this difficult context, we have made meaningful strides toward building the just, equitable, and climate-safe world we know is possible.

Our work on bills this year was not in vain, despite outcomes falling short of our hopes. Thanks to the advocacy of the Save RIPTA coalition, of which we are a part, the language of two bills increasing funding sources for RIPTA was included in the state budget. Although RIPTA did not receive all the funding it needs, it now has new resources and is in a better position than it would have been.

Advocating for legislation educates politicians and the public about critical issues, laying the groundwork for future victories and strengthening our coalitions. For instance, we endorsed four bills aimed at bringing our public utility into the modern era with transforming energy infrastructure and more equitable billing. We pushed for a Green Amendment to enshrine the right to a healthy environment in our state constitution, advocated for procuring more offshore wind energy to clean our electrical supply, and supported many other important measures.

CARI is continuing to evolve as an organization. We are welcoming our first part-time Executive Director, Jeff Migneault, who is bringing thoughtful leadership and experience with new dedicated time to deepen and expand CARI's impact. Our organizing capacity grew further with the addition of our Communications Lead, Avery Robertson and of our first University of Rhode Island Energy Fellow, Shannon McGrath. For the first time, we have also launched a CARI Youth Team, recognizing that youth leadership is essential to shaping the future we are fighting for.

Our community also continues to grow. This year alone, nearly 800 new people joined our mailing list, bringing us to a network of over 4,000 Rhode Islanders committed to climate action.

We are at an inflection point. The impacts of the climate crisis are increasing before our eyes, but so too is our resolve to meet this moment with thoughtful urgency, care, and a sense of possibility. As we look ahead, we remain committed to:

- Building power for bold policy action while holding decision-makers accountable to science, equity, and a healthy environment for generations to come.
- Mobilizing advocates to stand up to the rise of misinformation about offshore wind, both in person and on social media.
- Welcoming and growing leadership across generations and communities, so that everyone has a place in this movement.
- Fostering personal and collective resilience and hope, even in the face of setbacks, because our work is rooted in deep care for people and the planet



Although the energies of our many dedicated volunteers remain the heart of CARI's impact, fundraising is essential to our growth. If you can support us with an additional contribution, please do so at our donation link (QR code below). Your donation will be matched by a generous \$5,000 grant from Kim and Frohman Anderson, owners of Plant City.

Just as our accomplishments this year were only possible because of each one of you, our path forward depends on our collective courage, wisdom, and solidarity. Together, we will keep showing up, testifying, nurturing new leaders, enjoying our beautiful state, and growing a thriving movement for our climate in Rhode Island and beyond.

With gratitude and solidarity,

Jeff and Caitlin, outgoing CARI Co-Presidents

DONATE TO  
SUPPORT CARI →



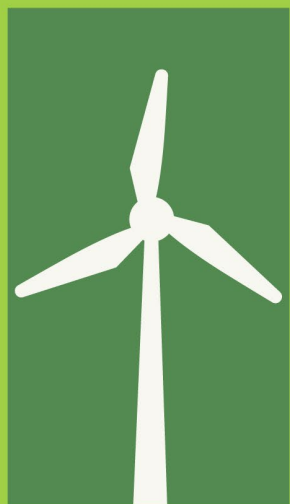


## CLIMATE ACTION RHODE ISLAND TEAM UPDATES



### **POLITICS TEAM**

A huge reason for the current absence of climate action is a consistent lack of political will. Our team advocates for climate in bills and the election of climate champions, ensuring that the need for action is heard in legislative halls and at the ballot box.



### **YES TO WIND TEAM**

We're at a critical moment for offshore wind in New England. Yes-to-wind is focused on advancing responsible, science-backed offshore wind projects while pushing back against efforts that delay progress and threaten our climate and communities.



CARI is nothing without our incredible volunteers. This year we launched two new teams, one focused on getting people out into the action and one aiming to uplift and empower youth leaders. We consistently had CARI members turnout in our iconic green shirts at key moments like testifying for important bills and showing up at national rallies.

### **MOBILIZATION TEAM**

Key to action on climate is the energy and coordination we bring, ensuring a strong, united presence at key moments. This team handles logistics, partnerships, promotion, creative visuals, and media engagement so that we can show up and be impactful.

*WE LAUNCHED  
NEW TEAMS !*

### **YOUTH TEAM**

The newly formed Youth Team connects young activists who want to fight for climate action. Youth engagement is vital to establish a seat at the table for the future they will be living in. This team builds community towards a common mission: to mitigate climate change impacts through action while creating opportunities for leadership and career building in the climate space.

# YES TO WIND TEAM

WE SAY

## YES TO WIND

Cleaner air means better health. Offshore wind helps reduce asthma, heart disease, and other issues linked to fossil fuel pollution.



USE THE POWER OF THE WIND TO PROTECT OUR FUTURE

yestowind.com

WE SAY

## YES TO WIND

Investments in offshore wind are bringing new life to ports, boosting local businesses, and supporting long-term economic growth.



YES TO WIND FOR A STRONG COASTAL ECONOMY

WE SAY

## YES TO WIND

People up and down the east coast are calling for energy freedom.



WIND ENERGY MEANS FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE

yestowind.com

WE SAY

## YES TO WIND

Climate change and a rapidly warming planet pose an existential threat to life on Earth. Offshore wind is essential to get us free from polluting fossil fuels, the number one cause of this crisis.



OFFSHORE WIND FOR A FUTURE FREE FROM FOSSIL FUELS

yestowind.com



This year, CARL's Yes to Wind team shifted its focus from fighting the Preservation Society lawsuit to a broader campaign to build community support for offshore wind and do what we can do to ensure projects like SouthCoast Wind, Revolution Wind, and Vineyard Wind get completed. This team has been hard at work through op-eds, creating community voices videos, and showing up to build public support, educate communities on the benefits of offshore wind, and push back against misinformation.

In early 2025, Christian Roselund took the helm as team lead, with Jonaliza Ceklic stepping up as communications lead. Thanks to their incredible leadership, they've helped grow the team into a sharp, focused campaign effort that connects community members, partners, and policymakers with science-backed facts and compelling messages about offshore wind's potential.

In June, the team launched [YesToWind.com](https://www.yestowind.com), a centralized hub for campaign updates, storytelling, and engagement. With this new platform we hope to begin building a base of visible public backing from residents, organizations, and local leaders. Alongside this, the team launched the Yes to Wind petition—created in partnership with local and regional allies up and down the east coast from Louisiana to Maine. This petition aims to collect broad support for offshore wind and show our leaders that communities want clean and reliable energy, not fossil fuels.

# MOBILIZATION TEAM

This year, we launched a Mobilization Team with a simple goal: show up when it matters. Whether it's a rally, a hearing, or a big moment for climate action, this team helps get CARI members out in force—bright green shirts, big energy, and a clear message. When we show up together, people notice.

It has been a very active year with CARI plugging into bigger national moments. In the wake of the inauguration, we put on the Rally for the Planet on the State House steps. CARI kept up this momentum, being an instrumental part of the team putting on the No Kings and Hands Off rallies in Rhode Island—working with groups like Indivisible RI to show that addressing climate change is interconnected with other vital issues such as the preservation of democracy, immigrant rights, and racial justice.

This team is just getting started, and we're looking for folks who want to help be a part of the bright green CARI presence. This team is the place for those who have a knack for making it all happen. If you've got ideas for impactful actions and know how to get it done—we'd love to have you.



The poster features a central illustration of two hands holding a blue and green Earth globe, with a row of green trees at the base. Above the hands is the CARI logo (Climate Action Rhode Island 2020.org/ri) and a QR code with the text 'Scan for details'. Below the hands is a large green banner with the text 'RALLY FOR THE PLANET' in white. To the left of the banner, it says 'This Inauguration Day, show that we care about the planet!'. To the right, under the heading 'Date and Place', it lists 'January 20th' and 'Outside RI State House 2-4 pm'. At the bottom, a section titled 'Co-sponsored by:' lists various partner organizations with their logos, including Citizens' Climate Lobby, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, clif, Conservation of the Nation, CLIMATE+CONVERSATIONS, SUNRISE MOVEMENT, RISEA, U.S. Coast Guard, RI, CLIMATE JOBS, GREEN NEW DEAL ALLIANCE, RI + WFP, RI Transit Riders, and the House of Representatives.

**CARI**  
Climate Action Rhode Island  
2020.org/ri

Scan for details

**RALLY FOR THE PLANET**

**This Inauguration Day,  
show that we care  
about the planet!**

**Date and Place**

- January 20th
- Outside RI State House  
2-4 pm

**Co-sponsored by:**

Citizens' Climate Lobby, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, clif, Conservation of the Nation, CLIMATE+CONVERSATIONS, SUNRISE MOVEMENT, RISEA, U.S. Coast Guard, RI, CLIMATE JOBS, GREEN NEW DEAL ALLIANCE, RI + WFP, RI Transit Riders, House of Representatives





## POLITICS TEAM

Between local and federal elections, it was a busy year for the Politics Team. Locally we endorsed 20 candidates for the RI State Senate and 35 for the RI State House of Representatives. Many were incumbents we are closely aligned with and some were challenging incumbents or vying for open seats. It was a year that most incumbents won, but we hope the challengers we supported will be back for another try in 2026.

Given the high stakes in the federal elections, we focused our endorsements on Senator Whitehouse, Representative Magaziner, and Kamala Harris. We supported CARL members who traveled to swing state Pennsylvania to canvas for Harris. Win or lose, we are always proud to turn out for candidates who share our values.





Given the new threats to climate action at the federal level, our role in fighting for state level action is all the more important. Our politics team endorsed 20 bills this spring and advocated for them with letter writing, calling campaigns and providing written and in-person testimony. Yet it was again a disappointing year, with only one of the bills passing. We had joined with other RI environmental groups in prioritizing the Building Decarbonization Act, which up to the last moment of the session seemed to have a chance.

To dramatize this grief inducing result, we held a mock funeral ceremony and march at the State House a week after the session ended. Jeff had his acting debut as the preacher, and we marched with a cardboard coffin and tombstones for each of the bills that died this session, assembling back on the State House steps to mourn their lost potential and set up a temporary cemetery. The successful Net Metering Bill also made a spirited appearance! Stay tuned for the video of the event.

Frankly, now is a time for us to regroup and reassess our strategies to more successfully get important climate bills over the finish line next session.



Photo by Thomas Wojick

# YOUTH TEAM

The CARI Youth Team, founded in April 2025 by URI Energy Fellow Shannon McGrath, aims to form a community and connect young people (14 - 24) who are looking to become climate change activists and want to fight for action.

Young people will play a major role in determining what happens in the future. They are the future. The goals within this team are to unite for a common mission in Rhode Island to mitigate climate change impacts, to show up and advocate for climate-related legislation, and to create opportunities for those who want to lead and educate in this field. The CARI Youth Team is about creating a positive, empowering environment where youth in Rhode Island can take climate action and lift each other up through climate education, action and working towards justice. If that sounds like your kind of community, we'd love for you to join us.

**STRENGTH IN NUMBERS**  
When we unite for a mission, our voice together can be heard over a wider range. We have the potential to influence policies, and industries.

**ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS**  
Leading a community movement towards climate action pilots public consciousness, which drives transformative steps at local, state, and even national levels.

**PROGRESSIVE CHANGE**  
Our collective push for sustainability can reshape businesses towards more sustainable practices.

**THE POWER OF COMMUNITY ACTIVISM**  
Working together we can grow in power to achieve our goals and address environmental challenges.

**JOIN US IN TAKING ACTION!**

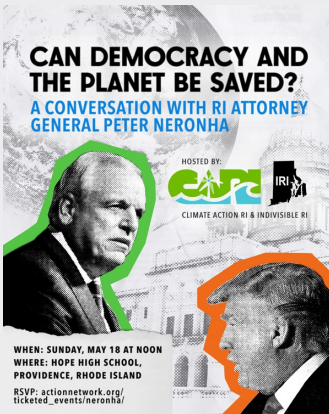
**CONTACT US**  
@ri4climate  
shannon@climateactionri.org

**RI YOUTH 4 CLIMATE**  
If you're between 14 and 24 and live in Rhode Island, you can join!

**ACT ON CLIMATE RI**  
Climate Action Rhode Island • 350.org/ri

# CONVERSATION WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL PETER NERONHA:

CARI worked with Indivisible RI on hosting a conversation with AG Neronha, “Can Democracy and the Planet Be Saved?” AG Neronha had filed 19 lawsuits at the time against the Trump administration’s actions like declaring a “national energy emergency” that undercut environmental protections and benefits the growth of the fossil fuel industry. Neronha spoke to the hard work he and his staff are doing with a coalition of AGs across the country to fight back, encouraging the audience that if we keep up our energy we will prevail.



“Every time the President breaks the law in this way, he attempts to concentrate power around himself. We must, and we will, stop him.”

—AG Neronha

## Community meetings:

This year's community meetings offered opportunities to learn from scientists, advocates, and policy experts on topics ranging from home electrification to climate disinformation. These sessions helped deepen our understanding of the challenges we face—and the solutions within reach. Presentations included:

- September 2024: **Claire Douglass** of The New Fundamentals presented on how to build successful people-powered environmental campaigns.
- November 2024: **Kim Cobb**, Director of the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society and Professor in the Department of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences at Brown University presented a talk titled "Science and Solutions for a Warming World."
- Feb 2025: **Kevin Proft**, Deputy Director of Sustainability for the City of Providence and Michelle Jalbert, Executive Director of the Providence Resilience Partnership spoke about efforts in Providence.
- May 2025: **Benjamin Adams** of the Rocky Mountain Institute presented on how to spot and combat climate disinformation.
- June 2025: **Amanda Barker**, Clean Energy Program Coordinator at Green Energy Consumers Alliance presented on Home Electrification Incentives and Rebates



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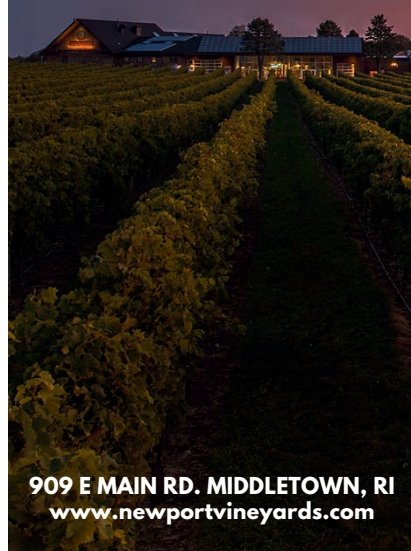
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# PLANT CITY

## The world's first plant-based food hall & marketplace

Plant City is the world's first plant-based vegan food hall & marketplace. All of Plant City's restaurants and bars serve 100% plant-based vegan cuisine. Plant City's first location is in downtown Providence, known as the Creative Capital.



PLANT CITY  **Plant-Based. Fast.**



**Purpose • Local • Sustainable**



432 W. FOUNTAIN ST. PROVIDENCE, RI 02903



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GREENS**  
CO • OP MARKET

THANK YOU  
FOR ALL  
YOU DO

**JENNIFER  
BOYLAN**  
STATE REP DIST. 11  
RIVERSIDE BARRINGTON



# Aquidneck Island Climate Caucus

*Bringing attention to the impact of climate  
change on our fragile island*

*Representatives Lauren Carson, Newport & Terri Cortvriend, Middletown & Portsmouth*



**Thank you for your  
environmental advocacy,  
Climate Action RI!**

Linda Ujifusa, RI State Senator, Dist. 11 (Portsmouth, Bristol) & J. Mark Ryan, MD, Physicians for a National Health Program RI Chapter Chair



**"Hope is not a passive state of mind, but a state of action."  
~ Jane Goodall**

"Building a just climate future requires all of us. As your Representative in Congress, I'm working to bring good, clean energy jobs to Rhode Island, fighting to preserve Federal climate science funding, and working to make sure every community has the resources and protections to thrive for generations to come."



**ALEX**  
**FINKELMAN**

---

State Representative ♦ District 74  
Jamestown ♦ Middletown



*Thank you*  
**Climate Action Rhode Island**  
for your commitment  
and advocacy!

The past several years have been some the best in Rhode Island's history for environmental policy-making. Those achievements would not have happened without all of the committed advocates who work tirelessly to effect change at the local level.



K. JOSEPH SHEKARCHI  
RI Speaker of the House



CHRISTOPHER BLAZEJEWSKI  
House Majority Leader



*Best wishes to  
Climate Action RI  
for a Successful*

*Picnic For the Planet 2025*

*United States Senator Jack Reed*

Paid for by the Reed Committee

**THANK YOU, CLIMATE CHANGE  
RHODE ISLAND, FOR CHAMPIONING  
100% RENEWABLE ENERGY,  
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND A  
HEALTHIER PLANET FOR ALL.**

SENATOR LAMMIS J. VARGAS

DISTRICT 28

PROVIDENCE/CRANSTON

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF LAMMIS J. VARGAS



**JUNE  
SPEAKMAN**



DEMOCRAT FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**BRISTOL & WARREN**

*Thanks to CARI for  
your advocacy!*

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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Audubon Society of RI

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Nathan Biah, RI State House Rep - District 3

Bridget Valverde, RI State Senator - District 35

# PICNIC FOR THE PLANET

