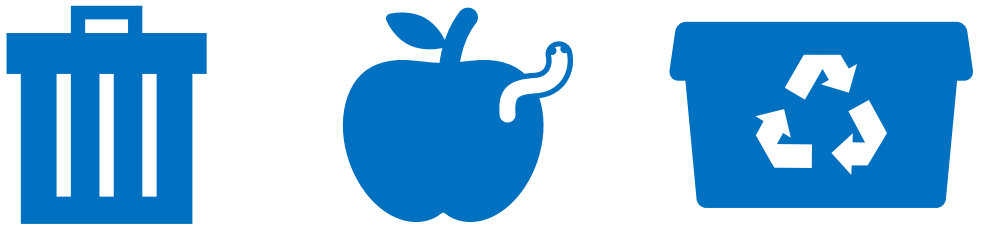
Waste Sector



May 28th, 2025

10:00am – 12:00pm EST

Agenda

- ✓ Introductions
- ✓ Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Overview
- ✓ Energy Sector Relevant Metrics
- ✓ Clean Energy Workforce Planning
- ✓ Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities (LIDAC) Considerations
- ✓ Open Discussion
  - ✓ Trends
  - ✓ Measures Presented
  - ✓ Needs from the region
  - ✓ Past experiences with Climate Policy
- ✓ Next Steps

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Introductions

- Name
- Affiliation / Organization
- Title / Position
- What area or region you typically work in
- Why you attended today

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Overview

Program Goals:

Through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, Congress provided tools to pursue greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution reductions, including the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program.

In implementing this program, EPA seeks to achieve three broad objectives:

1. Tackle damaging climate pollution while supporting the creation of good jobs and lowering energy costs for families.
2. Accelerate work to empower community-driven solutions in overburdened neighborhoods.
3. Deliver cleaner air by reducing harmful air pollution in places where people live, work, play, and go to school.

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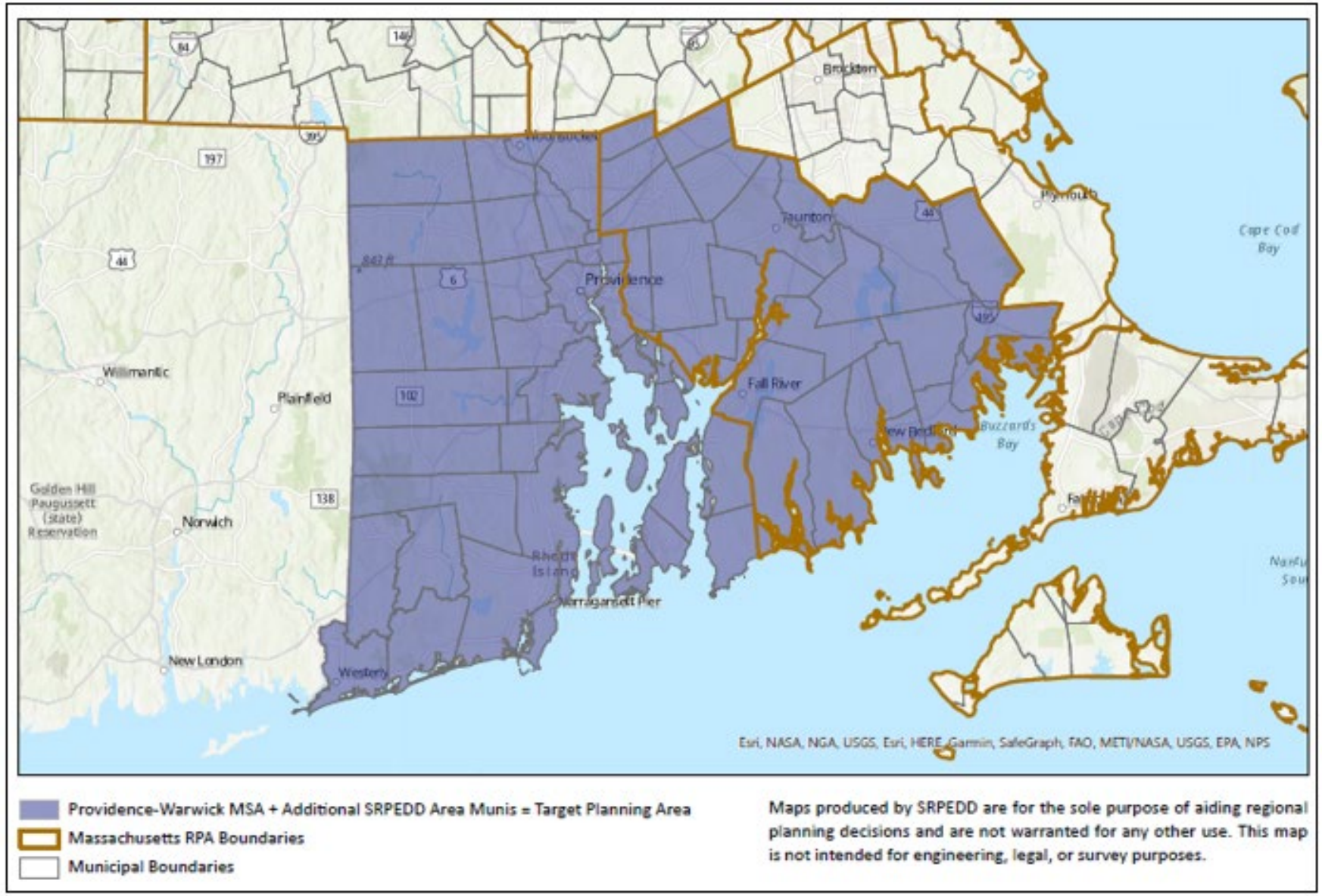
The Providence-Warwick MSA covers all of Rhode Island and Bristol County, Massachusetts

As of 2023, the MSA had a population of 1.67 million

Figure 1: Providence-Warwick MSA CPRG Planning Area



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Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Overview

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) Requirements:

- A GHG inventory
- GHG emission projections
- GHG reduction targets
- Quantified GHG reduction measures
- A benefit analysis for the full geographic scope and population covered by the plan
- A low-income and disadvantaged communities benefits analysis
- A review of authority to implement
- A plan to leverage other federal funding
- A workforce planning analysis

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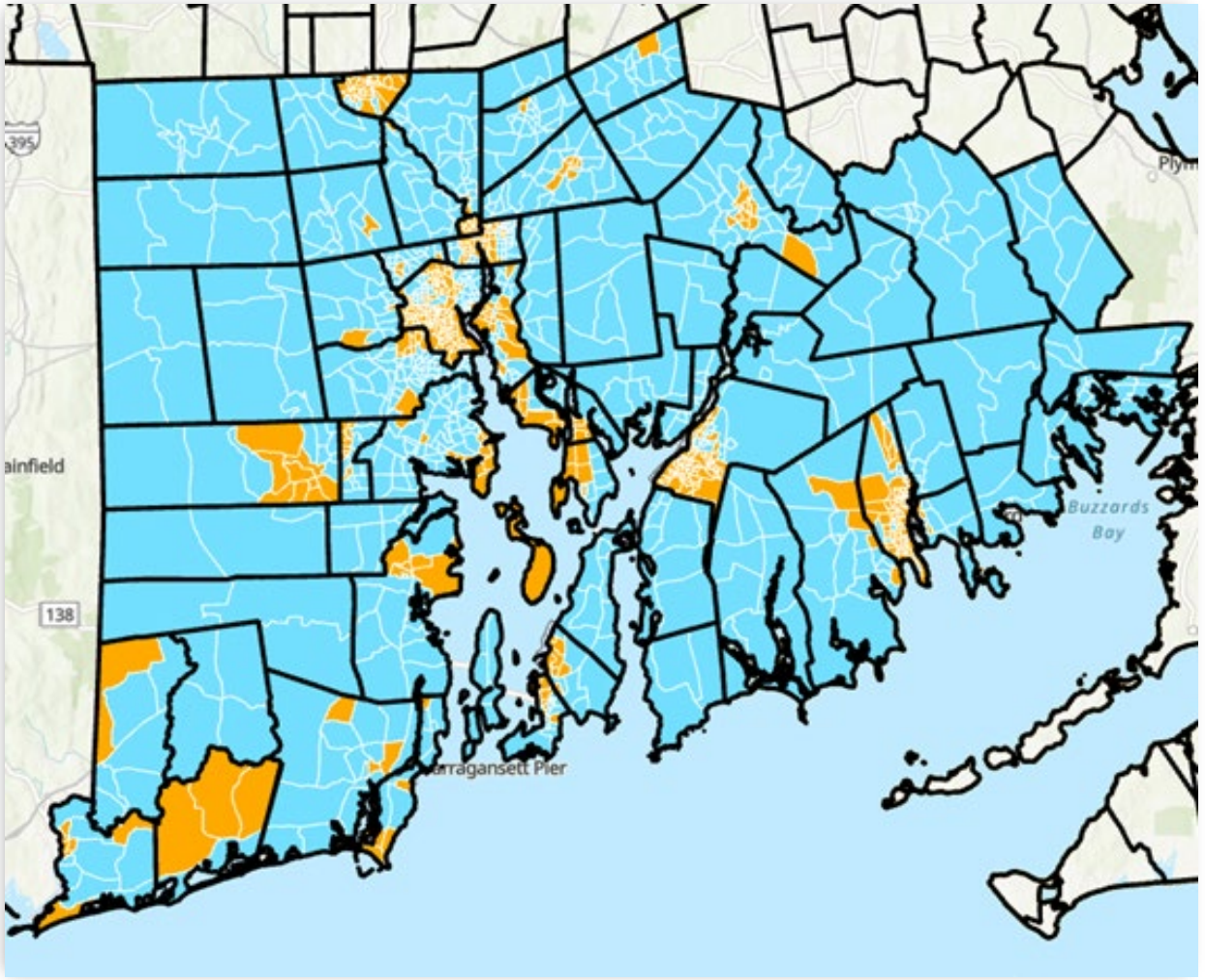
Demographic Characteristics

- This plan will analyze distribution of benefits across demographic groups
- Map of our Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities for reference
- Our goal is to avoid harming communities that have previously been overlooked
- Facilities near groups that have been burdened by pollutant exposure previously should be incorporated into analysis



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Waste Sector Relevant Measures

W1: Consolidate waste and reuse strategies and create a single regional entity

Potential Project Examples:

- Create a consumption-based ghg inventory
- PAYT centralization in RI state following the 2038 plan which would help to standardize best practices
- Require recyclable or reusable materials at municipal events; ensure outreach materials have longevity and incorporate standard accessibility features

W2: Incentivize upstream waste diversion

Potential Project Examples:

- Help Libraries source items for "Library of Things" and distribute materials associated with reuse and mutual aid
- Assist schools and universities with reuse and limiting unnecessary food waste; provide waste diversion and food scraps programming
- Offer consistent free backyard composting workshops and discounts on compost bins for purchase at Town Hall

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Waste Sector Relevant Measures

W3: Engage downstream stakeholders and grassroots organizations in waste reduction planning

Potential Project Examples:

- Implement a waste working group consisting of downstream and upstream stakeholders
- Encourage use of tip rebate programs and assistance
- Request hauler and facility feedback to be provided to residents

W4: Phase out toxics and PFAs in industrial processes and improve state-run sludge programs

Potential Project Examples:

- Emphasize the benefits of phasing out specific classes of chemicals
  - Provide information on available alternative materials when feasible
- Implement extended producer responsibility for PFAs- full lifecycle

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Waste Sector Workforce Planning

Organic Waste Diversion Technical Assistance:

- **Massachusetts:** Created over 900 jobs in organics recycling by supporting infrastructure like composting and anaerobic digestion; Rhode Island is now pursuing a similar model to expand its green waste workforce.
- **Rhode Island:**Awarded $3.35 million through the EPA to expand food waste diversion and recycling infrastructure, creating 12–15 temporary and 20 permanent jobs in municipal waste management.
- **Harvest Cycle Compost**: Diverted over 221,000 lbs of food scraps 11 drop-off and processing sites, with 611 subscribers and a small team of 4 staff supporting Rhode Island's growing food waste recycling sector

Waste Sector Growth

- **Massachusetts Waste Sector Growth:** Addressing Massachusetts's $8.35 billion wastewater infrastructure gap could generate over 45,100 direct jobs to help reach its net zero emissions by 2050. If investment and job creation were divided equally across MassCEC's six regions, each region, including Southeast Massachusetts, would receive approximately $1.39 billion in funding and generate around 7,516 direct jobs.
- **Rhode Island Waste Sector Growth**: The waste sector is projected to grow by 1,150 jobs (4%) by 2032, driven by a statewide goal to divert over 50% of waste from landfills to recycling and composting streams by 2030.

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Trends

- Effects from COVID-19
  - Single-use product use as a health precaution
- Wish-cycling is increasingly difficult to unlearn
- Rise in concern over impact of PFAs and recent rollback on drinking water regulations
- 45,826 tons of textiles recovered in MA in 2023; food waste ban success in MA
- What have you noticed?

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Workforce Development Needs

- Where are there gaps in education in the industry?
- What kind of jobs are needed to support greenhouse gas reduction?
- What experience is helpful in successful waste mitigation workers?

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Open Discussion

1. What are the priorities you have seen right now?
2. What policy tools are most useful to municipalities? Especially regarding diversion rates, individual actions, and wastewater awareness
3. What needs are you experiencing regionally?
4. Are there new innovations you would hope to integrate that you have not been able to yet?
5. Are there programs you have specifically implemented for certain census block groups or income levels in the communities you serve

W1: Consolidate waste and reuse strategies and create a single regional entity	**W2: Incentivize upstream waste diversion**
W3: Engage downstream stakeholders and grassroots organizations in waste reduction planning	**W4: Phase out toxics and PFAs in industrial processes and improve state-run sludge programs**

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Next Steps

Please take the sector survey or share it with other people in your field:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KXSM7BN

If you have other thoughts or concerns, please feel free to email amatthews@srpedd.org

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Thank you!

Please visit the project page at: srpedd.org/CPRG/

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