

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY :
d/b/a NATIONAL GRID – ELECTRIC AND GAS : DOCKET NO. 4770
DISTRIBUTION RATE FILING :

**OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES' UPDATED RESPONSE
TO THE COMMISSION'S FIRST SET OF DATA REQUESTS**
(Updated from May 1, 2018)

- 1-1.** Please provide a description of any and all initiatives (including, but not limited to programs and/or incentives) of which the Office of Energy Resources (OER) is aware, whether or not OER is leading them, that the State is undertaking toward electrification of the transportation sector. In providing the response, OER should, to the extent it has the information, provide details, including, but not limited to: the subsector (fleet vehicles, public transportation, personal vehicles, etc.), initiative/program components, timelines, cost, sources of revenues, metrics for performance/outcomes, and identification of the lead agency.

Response: OER is aware of the following initiatives as they relate to the electrification of the transportation sector in Rhode Island:

Lead by Example Executive Order 15-17

In December 2015, Governor Gina M. Raimondo signed Executive Order 15-17: "State Agencies to Lead by Example in Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy." This Executive Order established a "Lead by Example" program within the Office of Energy Resources (OER) "to oversee and coordinate efforts at State agencies to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions". The Executive Order establishes clear energy goals for State agencies, including the "development of strategies for reducing fossil fuel use and GHG emissions from the State fleet with a goal of ensuring that a minimum of 25% of new light-duty state fleet purchases and leases will be zero-emission vehicles by 2025". As of Q4 2017, 15 zero-emission vehicles have been added to the state fleet. The state fleet is managed by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance within the Department of Administration. For more on Executive Order 15-17, please visit: www.energy.ri.gov/documents/leadbyexample/ExecOrder15-17.pdf.

Master Price Agreement 509

MPA 509 was created to help provide a list of pre-qualified vendors that offer turnkey services for the purchase and installation of EVSEs to public agencies. State, quasi-state, municipalities, and state colleges and universities are eligible to use the MPA. Three vendors are currently on the list. OER is currently working to evolve MPA 509 into a Continuous Recruitment (CR) to allow additional

qualifying vendors to apply. A MPA 509 user guide is available at: www.purchasing.ri.gov/RIVIP/MPAs/509userguide.pdf.

DRIVE

DRIVE was an Electric Vehicle (EV) rebate program designed by the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) to support adoption of electric vehicles by Ocean State drivers. Through DRIVE, qualified Rhode Island residents interested in purchasing or leasing an electric vehicle (EV) were eligible to apply for a financial rebate of up to \$2,500, based upon vehicle battery capacity.

The DRIVE program ran from January 29, 2016 and ended on July 10, 2017. It was seeded with \$576,000, including funds from the Attorney General's office (American Electric Power Corporation Settlement Funds) and OER (Stripper Well Oil Overcharge Petroleum Escrow Violation Funds). During that time, 254 Rhode Islanders purchased or leased an eligible electric vehicle through the program. This helped increase overall EV adoption in RI by 55%, generated over \$300,000 in new sales tax revenue for the state, and supported purchases from 15 different Rhode Island dealerships.

Charge Up! Public Sector Vehicle Electrification Program

The Rhode Island Charge Up! Program offers incentives to state agencies and municipalities interested in installing electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE or charging stations) at publicly-accessible facilities, and supports the purchase or lease of electric vehicles (EVs) for integration into public sector fleets. Qualified public-sector applicants may be eligible to receive a total award of up to \$75,000 to support their adoption of clean transportation solutions.

Through Charge Up!, applicants may qualify for up to \$60,000 in incentives to support the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charging stations (Level II or higher). In addition, applicants that install at least one charging station through this program may also qualify for up to \$15,000 to support the purchase or lease of a new electric vehicle as part of their public-sector fleet. EVs with a completed purchase or lease agreement effective on or after July 1, 2016 will be qualified under this incentive program. In order to be eligible for this program, a qualified public sector entity must have completed – or is contracted to install – a comprehensive energy efficiency and/or renewable project that, at minimum, offsets the projected electricity consumption that will be used as the result of installing new electric vehicle charging station(s). For more information, please visit: www.energy.ri.gov/transportation/ev/charge-up.php.

National Drive Electric Week

National Drive Electric Week is a nationwide celebration to heighten awareness of today's widespread availability of plug-in vehicles and highlight the benefits of all-

electric and plug-in hybrid-electric cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. Rhode Island has been actively involved in this effort for the past four years, holding the most recent event at the Misquamicut Fall Festival. OER works closely with partner agencies such as the Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Environmental Management (DEM), the Department of Health (DOH), and Ocean State Clean Cities (OSCC) to plan and coordinate these events. In addition to static displays and handouts, the events offer interested parties the chance to ride and/or drive electric vehicles. To date, OER and partner agencies have seen roughly 250 ride and drive experiences (total # of test drives, including driver and passenger) occur over six separate events within the state, with additional experiences expected at the May 30, 2018 RI Public Works Association's Construction & Equipment Show and the 2018 Drive Electric Week event at the Pascoag Green Festival. For more information, please visit: driveelectricweek.org/.

Transportation Listening Sessions

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Office of Energy Resources, and Department of Transportation – on behalf of the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) – hosted two public listening sessions, on April 3, 2018 in Newport and on April 4, 2018 in Providence, to hear ideas on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, increase the resilience of transportation-related infrastructure, and design solutions with environmental justice communities in mind. Roughly 18 attendees joined the discussion in Newport, and 24 in Providence. Another 15 written public comments were received through April 13th. The listening sessions provided valuable feedback from local stakeholders and the public, reaffirming the overall need for broader transformation of the transportation sector in Rhode Island.

Zero Emission Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding (ZEV MOU)

Rhode Island is one of eight members (California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, & Vermont) of a 2014 Multi-State ZEV MOU, organized by the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) committing to coordinated action to ensure the successful implementation of state ZEV programs. Collectively, these states have committed to having at least 3.3 million ZEVs on their roadways by 2025. The MOU and corresponding ZEV Action Plan identifies joint cooperative actions to undertake to help expedite this process. For a more information, please visit: <https://www.zevstates.us/>.

Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI)

The Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) is a regional collaboration of 11 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States and the District of Columbia that seeks to develop the clean energy economy, improve transportation, and reduce carbon emissions in the transportation sector. Rhode Island has been a participating

member of this initiative since its inception in 2010. Agencies involved include OER, DOT, DEM, and the DPUC.

“Drive Change, Drive Electric.” Marketing Campaign

Drive Change. Drive Electric. represents a unique public-private partnership between auto manufacturers and Northeast states to advance consumer awareness, understanding, consideration and adoption of electric cars, including battery electric, plug-in hybrid electric, and fuel cell electric vehicles. The marketing campaign launched on March 29, 2018 at the New York International Auto Show. For more information, please visit www.driveelectricus.com/.

Providence Hydrogen Fueling Station

Rhode Island’s first hydrogen fueling station was installed off Branch Avenue in Providence in the fall of 2017. The station is a joint venture by French energy company Air Liquide and Toyota Motor Corporation. The station was one of the first of 12 planned for the Northeast, creating a hydrogen corridor. No state funding was used as part of this installation.

Rhode Island Alternative Fuel Corridors

As part of the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) designation process to create a national network of alternative fueling and charging infrastructure along national highway system corridors, Route I-95 and Rt. 6 in Rhode Island were designated as “Alternative Fuel Corridors” FHWA during the 2016 and 2017 enrollment periods. These corridors were selected in part based on the current and planned infrastructure investments made along them. I-95 has been deemed “signage-ready” for both electric and compressed natural gas, while Rt. 6 and I-95 are designated as “signage pending” for hydrogen. Highway signage has been installed along I-95 at the northern and southern entrances to the state, informing travelers that they are within an alternative fuel corridor. For more information, visit: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/alternative_fuel_corridors/

VW Mitigation Plan

Volkswagen has agreed to settle allegations that it violated the federal Clean Air Act by selling vehicles that emit air pollution over the legal limit, and by cheating on federal emission tests to hide the excess pollution. The affected vehicles exceed federal emission limits for nitrogen oxide (NOx), a pollutant that harms public health and contributes to ozone or smog formation. The VW settlement establishes an Environmental Mitigation Trust (EMT) to be used for environmental mitigation projects that reduce emissions and improve air quality. The funding for the eligible mitigation actions is intended to fully mitigate the total, lifetime excess oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions from vehicles involved in the case. The trust provides \$14,368,858 for Rhode Island, and the funds are to be used during a 10-year period

for specific, eligible projects designed to achieve these results. The Department of Environmental Management is the designated environmental authority to oversee how the funds allocated to Rhode Island are used.

DEM, working in partnership with other state agencies including OER, is in the process of developing a draft State Mitigation Plan that will help guide distribution of funds. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/air/vwsettle.php>.

UPDATED JUNE 1, 2018: DEM, working in partnership with other state agencies including OER, held a public information session on May 17, 2018 at Rhode Island College. At the public information session, DEM presented its Draft Beneficiary Mitigation Plan. The plan would allocate \$10,000,000 to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) to fund the replacement of roughly twenty (20) class 4-8 diesel transit buses with new all-electric zero-emission vehicles and associated charging infrastructure. Additionally, \$1,500,000 will be used to fund the construction of 15 – 30 publicly-accessible DCFC stations through a competitive process set up by the OER. For more information, please visit: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/air/vwsettle.php>.

Sponsor: Nicholas Ucci, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Energy Resources
Date: Originally submitted May 1, 2018 and Updated June 1, 2018

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the original and ten copies of this Data Request Response were sent to the Public Utilities Commission, by regular U.S. mail. In addition, PDF copies of the Data Request Response were served electronically on the entire service list of this Docket. I certify that all of the foregoing was done on June 1, 2018.


