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GREENPOWER PERSPECTIVES

A New Voice in New England's Clean Energy Future

"SPRING INTO SUSTAINABILITY: PREPARING FOR A GREENER SEASON"

As we emerge from the final days of winter, March marks the perfect time to renew our commitment to sustainability—both individually and as a community. From changing the clocks to planting the first seeds of spring, it's a month built on transition and possibility. This is also the season when clean energy initiatives ramp up: solar installations increase with longer daylight hours, community gardens begin prepping beds for planting, and local governments revisit climate goals in preparation for Earth Month in April.

At the Northeast Renewable Energy Coalition (NREC), we see this moment as more than just symbolic. It's a chance to refocus and reset. Whether you're a homeowner considering a heat pump upgrade, a student looking to intern with a green tech startup, or a policymaker pushing forward carbon legislation, March is the month to take that first or next step. Let's harness this seasonal momentum and step into spring with energy, optimism, and action.

NEW ENGLAND CLEAN ENERGY WEEKS

RHODE ISLAND	CONNECTICUT	MASSACHUSETTS
APRIL 21-25, 2025	*JUNE 23-27, 2025*	*SEPT 29-OCT 3, 2025*

3 QUICK TIPS TO REDUCE YOUR ENERGY BILL THIS SPRING

Open Those Windows
Before reaching for the AC, use natural ventilation. Cross-breezes can cool your home just as effectively—and for free.

Adjust Your Thermostat
Just 1–2 degrees lower can significantly reduce your heating costs during mild spring days. Consider smart thermostats for even more savings.

Switch to LEDs
Longer days mean more light—but when you need artificial lighting, opt for LEDs. They use at least 75% less energy and last 25x longer than incandescents.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: HOW ONE RHODE ISLAND TOWN IS LEADING THE WAY ON LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY

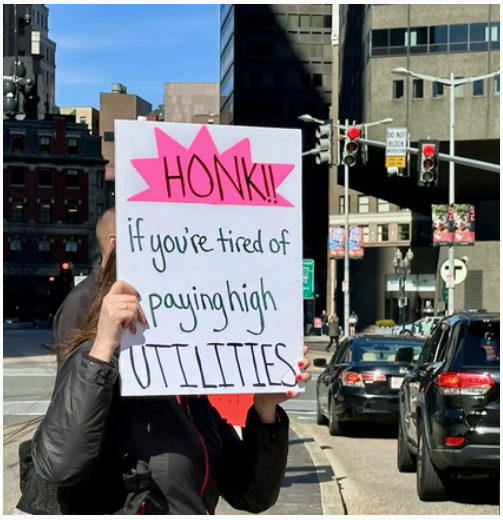
In the quiet coastal town of South Kingstown, Rhode Island, a big shift is underway—and it's happening street by street, school by school, and neighbor by neighbor. This March, we're celebrating how this small community is becoming a big example of what local climate action can look like when everyone gets involved.

Over the past year, South Kingstown has launched a community-wide initiative called "Sustainable SK", bringing together town officials, educators, students, businesses, and residents to work toward a shared vision of environmental resilience. From municipal solar installations to school composting programs and energy audits for small businesses, the town is proving that sustainability isn't just about policy—it's about people.

One standout initiative is the Youth Climate Corps, a student-led group at South Kingstown High School that organizes monthly cleanups, climate literacy workshops, and even lobbies local leaders for greener policies. "We're not waiting for the future," says Maya, a senior in the program. "We're building it right now."

The town's efforts haven't gone unnoticed. This past March, they received a regional award for their work in climate adaptation and public engagement, recognizing both the town's practical achievements and the inclusive, grassroots approach that made them possible.
This is what climate leadership looks like at the community level: collaborative, creative, and deeply connected to place. As we highlight South Kingstown, we hope other towns in the Northeast feel inspired to write their own clean energy success stories. After all, the energy transition isn't something happening in far-off capitals or tech hubs—it's happening on our own blocks, with our own neighbors, and it starts with small steps that build big momentum.

NEWS CORNER



Attorney general targets costly state program intended to fix gas pipes

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell is calling for significant reforms to the state's Gas System Enhancement Program (GSEP), a decade-old initiative aimed at replacing leak-prone gas pipes. Campbell argues that the program has escalated into a costly infrastructure project, with expenses rising from $291 million in 2015 to $880 million in 2025, costs that are ultimately passed on to ratepayers. She contends that this extensive replacement strategy not only burdens consumers financially but also conflicts with the state's clean energy objectives by reinforcing reliance on fossil fuels. In a 49-page brief submitted to the Department of Public Utilities, Campbell urges a shift towards more targeted, cost-effective repairs and calls for greater accountability from gas companies in aligning with environmental goals. Clean energy advocates support these reforms, emphasizing the need to balance safety, affordability, and sustainability in the state's energy infrastructure.

wgbh.org

How Trump's tariffs could brake EVs but accelerate Tesla

President Trump's proposed 25% tariff on imported automobiles is poised to significantly impact the U.S. electric vehicle (EV) market. Many automakers rely on international supply chains, particularly from China, for EV components, making them vulnerable to increased costs. This move threatens to raise EV prices, potentially slowing adoption and undermining efforts to compete with traditional gas-powered vehicles. However, Tesla, which manufactures its vehicles and batteries domestically, may benefit from these tariffs. With less exposure to international supply chain disruptions, Tesla could gain a competitive edge as rivals face higher production costs. Analysts suggest that this policy shift might inadvertently bolster Tesla's market position while challenging other automakers' EV strategies.

eenews.net

How Trump's tariffs could brake EVs but accelerate Tesla

In March 2025, the Northeast's offshore wind sector faced significant setbacks due to federal policy changes and project delays. President Trump's executive order on January 20, 2025, suspended new offshore wind permits and leases, mandating a review of previously authorized projects. This action introduced uncertainty for projects like New England Wind 1 and 2, which, despite having secured leases and federal approvals, now face potential regulatory challenges.
Simultaneously, Massachusetts' efforts to procure offshore wind power experienced delays. The state's latest solicitation, initiated in September 2024, aimed to secure 2,678 megawatts from three projects. However, by March 2025, one project withdrew, and another indicated a potential four-year delay, pushing contract finalizations to June 30, 2025.

wbur.org

"SPRING IS NATURE'S WAY OF SAYING, 'LET'S PARTY.'" —ROBIN WILLIAMS