



GREENPOWER PERSPECTIVES



A New Voice in New England's Clean Energy Future

RHODE ISLAND CLEAN ENERGY WEEK: A HISTORIC BEGINNING FOR THE OCEAN STATE



CIC Building, Providence, RI

The inaugural Rhode Island Clean Energy Week (April 21–25, 2025) was a remarkable milestone for our state, and we at the Northeast Renewable Energy Coalition are filled with pride and gratitude for the more than 1,800 participants who made it such a powerful success. Over five incredible days, we witnessed the beginning of a new chapter in Rhode Island's clean energy journey—one defined by innovation, inclusivity, and shared commitment to a more sustainable future.

The week kicked off with an Opening Breakfast at the CIC Building, setting the tone for five days of dynamic conversations, hands-on experiences, and forward-thinking policy dialogue. From EV Day at Thompson Speedway—where attendees test-drove the latest electric vehicles—to the Career Recruitment Fair and Innovation Expo, each event highlighted real progress and created new opportunities for collaboration, workforce development, and clean energy deployment.

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NEW ENGLAND CLEAN ENERGY WEEKS

CONNECTICUT

JUNE 23-27, 2025

MASSACHUSETTS

SEPT 29-OCT 3, 2025

RHODE ISLAND

APRIL 20-24, 2026



RI Senator Sheldon Whitehouse giving his keynote speech at the Opening Breakfast

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We were honored to be joined by influential public leaders who continue to shape Rhode Island’s clean energy vision. Governor Dan McKee, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, and Mayor Brett Smiley brought insight and leadership to critical discussions throughout the week. Their support reinforced the importance of public policy in driving sustainable change at every level.

The week was also a celebration of meaningful partnerships—none more significant than our collaboration with Patrick Crowley of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, who ensured labor’s voice was heard in every conversation. From established institutions like Rhode Island Energy and the RI Office of Energy Resources, to innovative companies such as Ocean Winds, Flux Marine, Revity Energy, and Thryve, the diversity of voices and visions on display exemplified the strength of Rhode Island’s clean energy ecosystem.

A particularly moving moment came during the Awards Gala at Roger Williams Casino, where House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi paid tribute to the late Senate President Dominick Ruggerio, who passed away on the first day of the week. As a longtime champion of clean energy legislation—including Rhode Island’s landmark 100% renewable electricity by 2033 law—his legacy guided and inspired our conversations throughout the week.

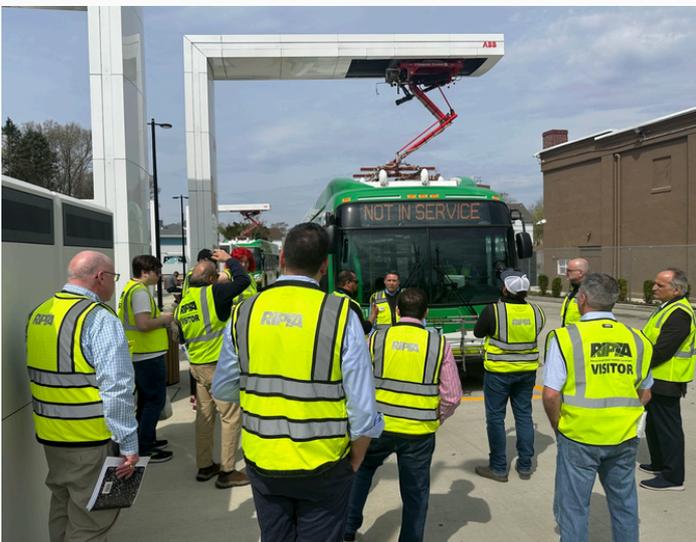


Ev Day at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park - Featuring two of our amazing sponsors, Lucid and Rivian.

We also extend heartfelt thanks to Sustainable Sounds for making sustainability seamless across all our events, Pranzi Catering for an unforgettable culinary experience, and Greer Yoder of CIC and Heather Manning of Roger Williams Park for their exceptional event coordination. The media coverage produced by Tom Dodge and NewView.Media elevated every moment and will continue to amplify our impact far beyond the event itself. You can now watch the event highlights on our [YouTube channel](#) and at [northeastrec.org](#).

Rhode Island Clean Energy Week was more than a collection of events—it was the start of a movement. It showed that our clean energy future will be shaped not just by innovation and investment, but by collaboration, equity, and shared purpose. As we reflect on everything we accomplished together, we’re reminded that Rhode Island has always punched above its weight when it comes to fighting for what’s right.

We are already looking ahead to next year’s celebration—April 20–24, 2026—and we invite you to be a part of it. Until then, thank you for helping make history, and for continuing to advance a cleaner, more resilient, and more just energy future for all Rhode Islanders.



Tour of RIPTA’s Electric Bus Fleet (left) and Tour of Robins Hollow Solar Field (right)

NEWS CORNER



Voltpost Brings EV Chargers to Connecticut

In April 2025, Voltpost announced its expansion into Connecticut with a plan to retrofit 50 lampposts into electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, totaling 100 ports over 18 months. Selected by the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), this initiative is part of the state's broader effort to electrify its vehicle fleet by 2030 and address the shortage of EV infrastructure—only 1.2% of vehicles in the state are currently electric. Voltpost's modular, lamppost-based chargers offer a low-cost, rapid-deployment solution, with 20% of installations planned in disadvantaged communities. The project is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 200 metric tons annually and will be carried out in partnership with local utilities, nonprofits, and certified minority- and women-owned businesses to ensure community engagement and job creation.

theevreport.com



Governor Lamont Announces Connecticut Correctional Facilities Now Powered By Solar Energy, Saving Costs And Reducing Emissions

Governor Ned Lamont announced the successful installation of solar energy systems at six of Connecticut's correctional facilities. These seven systems collectively deliver 8.3 megawatts of clean, renewable energy, resulting in significant cost savings and environmental benefits. Over their operational lifetime, the solar installations are projected to save the state more than \$11 million in energy costs and reduce carbon emissions by approximately 5,000 metric tons annually. This initiative underscores Connecticut's commitment to integrating sustainable energy solutions within state operations, promoting both fiscal responsibility and environmental stewardship.

solarquater.com



New England grid demand hits record low as rooftop solar kicks in

On April 20, 2025, New England's power grid experienced a record low demand of 5,318 megawatts, a 20% decrease from the previous year's low. This significant drop is attributed to mild weather conditions and the widespread adoption of rooftop solar panels, which peaked at 6,600 megawatts of behind-the-meter generation during the day. The phenomenon reflects the growing impact of distributed solar energy on the region's electricity consumption patterns. ISO New England highlighted the emergence of "duck curve" days, where midday demand dips due to solar generation, only to rise sharply in the evening as solar output wanes. This trend underscores the evolving energy landscape in New England, emphasizing the need for grid adaptability and strategic energy planning.

Reuters.com

“THE USE OF SOLAR ENERGY HAS NOT BEEN OPENED UP BECAUSE THE OIL INDUSTRY DOES NOT OWN THE SUN.”

— RALPH NADER