

ENERGY WEEK IN REVIEW

RICEW 2026 Honors Leaders Driving Rhode Island's Clean Energy Future



Rhode Island Clean Energy Week 2026 brought together nearly 600 guests across our Opening Kickoff and Closing Gala, celebrating the policymakers, businesses, labor leaders, and community champions who are doing the real work of building a cleaner, stronger New England. Fifteen awards were presented across categories from legislative leadership to offshore wind to lifetime achievement. The full list of winners is featured on page two of this newsletter.

“The future belongs to those who show up for it.”

[NORTHEASTREC.ORG/RICEW](https://www.northeastrec.org/ricew)

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Rhode Island Clean Energy Week 2026

Honoring the Leaders Driving Our Clean Energy Future

Rhode Island Clean Energy Week 2026 wrapped on May 8 with a Closing Gala drawing nearly 300 guests from across the region's clean energy, labor, and policy communities. The week opened with equal energy at our Opening Kickoff, which also drew nearly 300 guests. It was a remarkable week, and NREC was proud to recognize the people whose work is genuinely moving the needle.

Celebrating Excellence Awards

<i>Dominick Ruggerio Legislative Leadership Award</i>	Senator Jack Reed
<i>Large Business Innovator of the Year</i>	Textron Inc.
<i>Small Business Innovator of the Year</i>	Arch Energy, a Consigli Company
<i>Rhode Island Clean Energy Visionary Award</i>	Brett Feldman
<i>Media Outlet of the Year</i>	The Providence Journal
<i>Sheldon Whitehouse Ocean State Leadership Award</i>	Marc Parlange, President of the University of Rhode Island
<i>Rhode Island Roots Award</i>	Windmist Farm
<i>Community Engagement Award</i>	Kate Felder
<i>Clean Energy Project of the Year</i>	Revolution Wind
<i>Solar Vanguard Award</i>	Newport Renewables
<i>Lifetime Service Award</i>	Terri Brooks
<i>Policymaker of the Year</i>	Attorney General Peter Neronha
<i>Christopher Kearns Lifetime Achievement in Clean Energy Award</i>	Gina Raimondo
<i>Patrick Crowley Rhode Island Legacy Award</i>	Patrick Crowley
<i>Inaugural Patrick Crowley Rhode Island Legacy Award</i>	Andrew Cortes, Building Futures Rhode Island

Unsung Heroes Award

The Unsung Heroes Award was presented to eleven recipients this year. Nick Reynolds of IUPAT, Angela Lima, Executive Director of the Women's Fund of Rhode Island, Philip Swenson of Ironworkers Local 37, Cash Pina of Ironworkers Local 37, Nicole Dufresne of the Boys and Girls Club of Providence, Karen Warfield of Textron, Christine Noel, Director of the Rhode Island Children's Chorus, Aislinn Hanley of Climate Jobs Rhode Island, Abbie Hasenfus of the Office of Energy Resources, Daniela Fairchild of Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, and Kate Felder of Rhode Island Energy.

We are grateful to everyone who joined us and to our partners who made the week possible. RICEW 2027 is already in the works, and we cannot wait to see you there.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Revolution Wind

The Wind That Wouldn't Stop

There is a reason Revolution Wind won Clean Energy Project of the Year at the RICEW 2026 Closing Gala. The story of this project is not just about turbines and transmission cables. It is about what happens when a region decides it is serious about its energy future and refuses to let anyone take that away.

Revolution Wind is America's first commercial scale offshore wind project serving both Rhode Island and Connecticut, delivering power under fixed price, 20 year agreements with energy utilities in both states. The 65 turbine project is expected to reach its full 704 megawatt capacity in the second half of 2026, providing enough electricity to power 350,000 homes across the two states.

Getting there was not easy. The Trump administration ordered Revolution Wind to stop construction twice, first in August 2025 and again in December 2025. Both orders were overturned in federal court. The union workers kept building. More than 1,000 local union workers completed more than 2 million union work hours on the project, which underpins nearly 1.3 billion dollars in state investment and critical upgrades to Rhode Island's ports, shipyards, and supply chain.

On March 13, 2026, Revolution Wind started delivering power to the New England grid, strengthening the region's power supply and helping reduce costs for consumers. Rhode Island Energy has agreed to buy power from Revolution Wind at 9.8 cents per kilowatt hour, a significantly lower price than what Rhode Islanders paid in March. Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection projects that New England ratepayers will save 500 million dollars a year on wholesale energy costs from Revolution Wind.

“Clean, affordable energy from Revolution Wind is officially on the grid. When Rhode Island families pay their utility bills, they will be grateful to the resilient union workers who got this project over the finish line.”

This is what clean energy built right looks like. It creates jobs, lowers costs, protects ratepayers against the price swings of fossil fuels, and proves that a small state can lead the country when it decides to show up.



C O N N E C T W I T H R E V O L U T I O N W I N D

revolution-wind.com

NEWS CORNER



Massachusetts Is Fighting Back on Federal Funding

The Healey-Driscoll Administration's Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office was recently spotlighted in Pew Research Center research for its work helping communities navigate a rapidly changing federal funding landscape quickly and transparently. With federal funds for climate resilience, flood mitigation, and infrastructure all in flux, Massachusetts is showing other states how to stay ahead of it.

[pew.org](https://www.pew.org)



Federal Flood Mitigation Funding Is Open in Massachusetts

FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance program has funding available through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, with final subapplications due June 8. Clean energy and climate resilience belong at the same table, and this is a program worth knowing about if your organization or municipality is working on long term risk reduction from flooding.

[mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov)



Revolution Wind Wins Clean Energy Project of the Year

Revolution Wind received the Clean Energy Project of the Year Award at RICEW 2026, and the recognition could not be more deserved. After surviving two federal stop work orders and more than two years of construction, the 704 megawatt offshore wind farm began delivering power to the New England grid on March 13, 2026. Turn to page three for the full Partner Spotlight on what this project means for Rhode Island, Connecticut, and the entire region.

[revolution-wind.com](https://www.revolution-wind.com)



Carbon Markets Are Getting a Revamp

Voluntary carbon markets have faced years of credibility challenges, and new reform efforts are underway to address how offset quality is verified and traded. For clean energy businesses, municipalities, and nonprofits in New England navigating climate commitments, cleaner carbon market standards could open more reliable pathways for meeting sustainability goals and attracting investment.

[carbon-direct.com](https://www.carbon-direct.com)

"RHODE ISLAND MAY BE THE SMALLEST STATE IN THE NATION, BUT IT GENERATES MORE OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY PER SQUARE MILE THAN ANYONE. I GUESS SIZE MATTERS LESS THAN YOU THINK AFTER ALL."

– KRISTIN RODE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NREC