

RIEEA Rhode Island Environmental Education Association

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On Behalf of the Rhode Island Environmental Education Association In Support of <u>H-5047</u> – Recycling/Waste Audit for Rhode Island State House House Environment and Natural Resources Thursday, February 27, 2025

The Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (RIEEA) strongly supports H-5047, and respectfully urges its passage. RIEEA is a collaborative network of individuals and organizations working to support and promote environmental education in Rhode Island. Our membership includes more than 60 organizations¹ including Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Save The Bay, the Rhode Island Conservation Districts, and Rhode Island College, and over 400 individuals including educators, scientists, advocates, students, parents, and others.

A recycling/waste audit of the Rhode Island State House, along with a waste reduction strategy would decrease costs – both monetarily and environmentally – for the state. This would also help the state meet its carbon emission goals of the Act on Climate. Furthermore, the program would help educate lawmakers on the importance of sustainability practices and the benefits of implementing green initiatives in government operations. It would also serve as a model for businesses and organizations throughout the state, demonstrating that waste reduction, energy efficiency, and the adoption of renewable energy solutions are not only feasible but also cost-effective. By showcasing a commitment to environmental stewardship, the State House can inspire other entities to follow suit, fostering a culture of sustainability across Rhode Island.

I urge you to pass this important resolution.

¹ https://www.rieea.org/about-us/organizational-members/