



Salty Brine State Beach in Narragansett



Office of Water Resources Staff



DEM Law Enforcement K9-Grizzly



Unloading squid at the Port of Galilee

FY 2027 GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

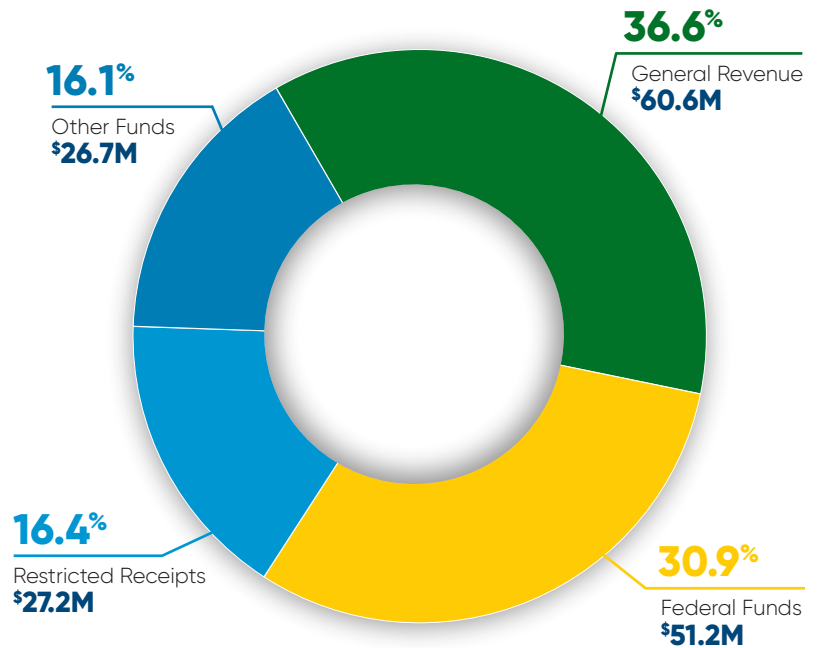
DEM is the state's chief steward of Narragansett Bay and other natural resources at the heart of Rhode Island's economy, culture, and environment. Our mission is to protect, restore, manage, and promote Rhode Island's environment and natural resources to protect and improve our quality of life. DEM's strategic plan provides a roadmap for the Department's 18 divisions to achieve our mission as we strive to innovate and improve.

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS ARE TO:

- Take action to counter climate change
- Prioritize diversity, inclusion, and environmental justice in all programs
- Protect and restore our environment to create greener, healthier communities
- Protect and improve water quality
- Conserve, promote, and steward our natural resources
- Promote and sustain outdoor recreation
- Expand and promote agricultural and seafood industries
- Demonstrate statewide leadership in organizational excellence and customer service

This budget request allows DEM to sustain services, meet legislative mandates like the Act on Climate, support small farm and seafood businesses, and address equity and environmental justice issues. DEM is also advancing capital projects, including new bathrooms at Burlingame State Campground and resilience upgrades at Roger Wheeler State Beach and the Port of Galilee. These projects provide opportunities for all Rhode Islanders to get outdoors, enjoy our beautiful facilities, and help grow our state's thriving commercial fishing industry and natural resources economy.

This budget request is aligned with Governor McKee's priorities, setting cost-effective, ambitious goals for DEM to be a state leader on climate change and sustainability; modernize environment protection; expand outdoor access; and develop future environmental leaders.



BUDGET ALLOCATIONS BY FUNDING SOURCE

FUNDING SOURCE	FY 2026 REVISED	FY 2027 GOV RECOMMENDED
General Revenue	\$58.5M	\$60.6M
Federal Funds	\$48.1M	\$51.2M
Restricted Receipts	\$26.7M	\$27.2M
Other Funds (Capital & Bond)	\$30.6M	\$26.7M
Grand Total	\$164.1M	\$165.9M



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PROPOSED FY 2027 BUDGET ARTICLES

RI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



TRANSFER BIG RIVER MANAGEMENT AREA TO DEM

- Transfers responsibility of the more than 8,000-acre property from the RI Water Resources Board to DEM.
- Aligns ownership with DEM's long-standing role managing the property under an existing agreement with the RI Water Resources Board.
- Builds on DEM's experience overseeing more than two dozen management areas statewide.
- Provides DEM with direct authority to manage public access, recreation, and other uses of the property.



\$50M GREEN ECONOMY & CLEAN ENERGY BOND

- Supports critical environmental and resilience initiatives in communities across the state.
- Previous Green Bonds have been approved by nearly 70 percent of Rhode Island voters.
- Funding allocations include: \$20M for local resilience projects; \$10M for energy efficiency initiatives; \$8M for state parks, beaches, and campgrounds; \$7M for the Narragansett Bay and Watershed Restoration Fund; \$3M for brownfields remediation; \$1M for local outdoor recreation grants; \$1M for marine infrastructure projects.



RI PAINT RECYCLING PROGRAM

- Requires the paint recycling program's implementing organization to submit a revised program plan to DEM for review and approval at least every five years, with the first plan due by the end of 2026.
- Establishes a best practice for extended producer responsibility programs through regular state oversight.
- Ensures program fees, drop-off locations, and services are periodically evaluated and updated.



LAKES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- Authorizes activities under the Freshwater Lakes Management Program to be funded through the Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Fund.
- Enables DEM to provide financial assistance for lake management efforts, including treatment of aquatic invasive species that can impede swimming, boating, and fishing.
- Protecting access to outdoor recreation supports local economies by sustaining tourism, strengthening small businesses, and preserving lakeshore property values.