



2025 RI Climate Action Strategy and Climate Policy

*Tina Munter – Policy Advocate at Green Energy Consumers Alliance
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About Green Energy Consumers Alliance

A nonprofit organization based in Massachusetts and Rhode Island with a mission to empower consumers and communities to speed a just transition to a zero-carbon world.



Energy cost drivers

Rhode Island has an overreliance on fossil fuels for electricity, heating, and transportation. The region often sees volatile gas prices that have been rising over time.

- In periods of very cold weather, RI relies on peaker plants (most expensive and dirty backup heating sources) to meet excess demand.
- The price of electricity is tied to the cost of natural gas due to the percentage of natural gas that contributes to the electricity resource mix.
- The cost of infrastructure investments is also a significant cost driver.

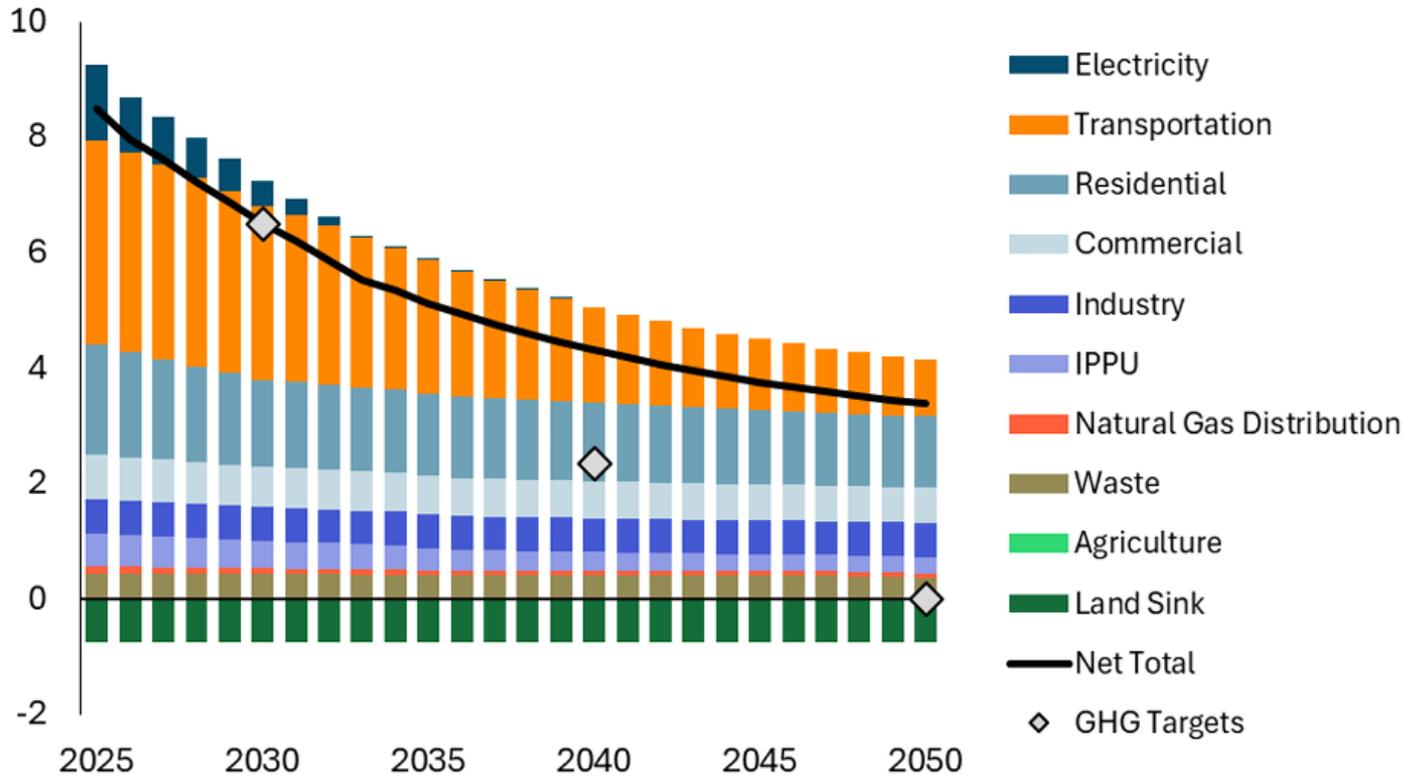
2025 RICAS and FY 2027 Budget

The 2025 RICAS relies on existing state policies including the Renewable Energy Standard for the state to meet the 2030 Act on Climate target, but there is significant uncertainty that even current policies can get us to 2030.

- The FY27 Budget has proposals that will not benefit Rhode Islanders.
- The RICAS shows the state needs more action to meet our climate targets, not less.

Figure 3: Economy-wide GHG Emissions Under the Current Policy Scenario

GHG Emissions (MMT CO₂e)



Cumulative Impact of Energy Efficiency on RI Electric Use

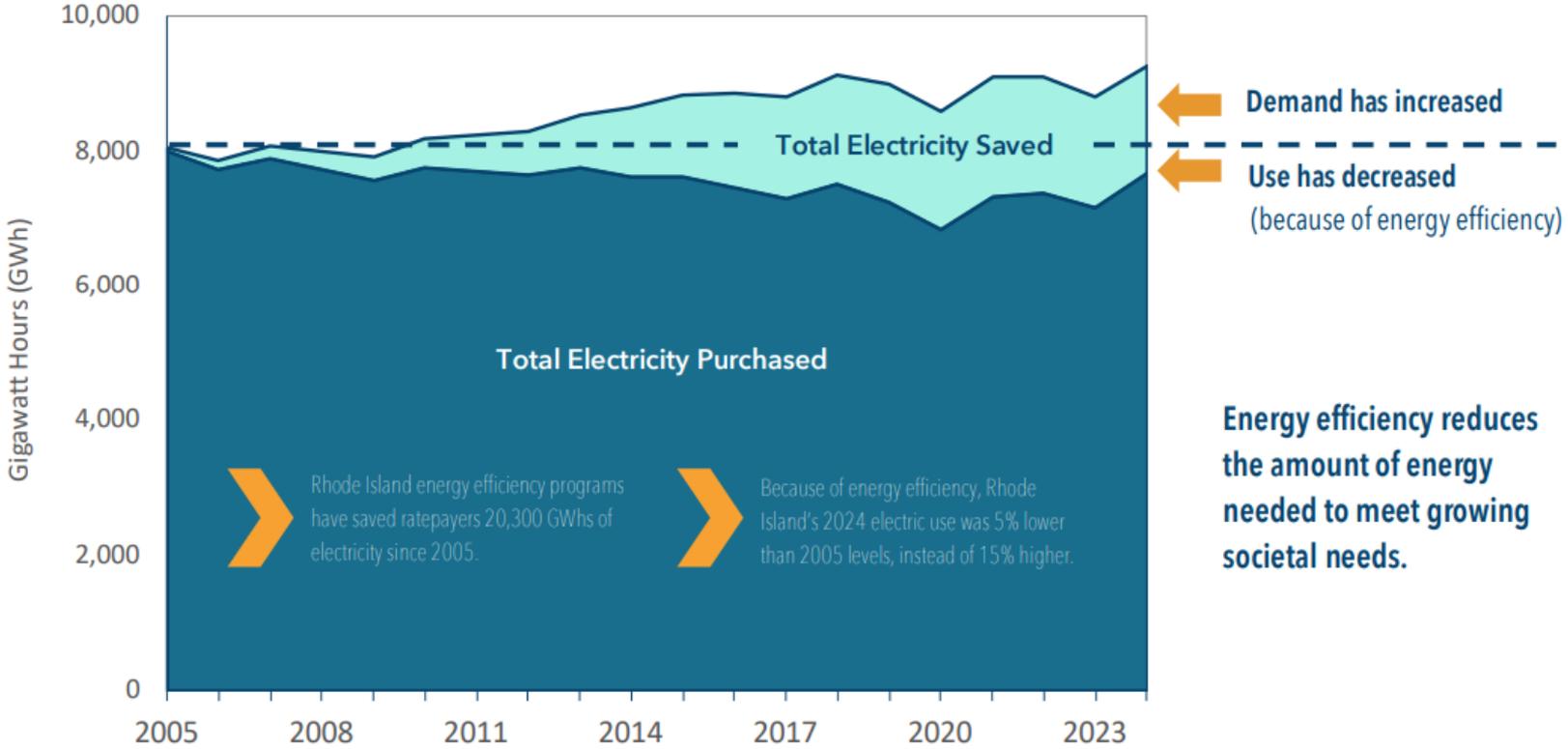
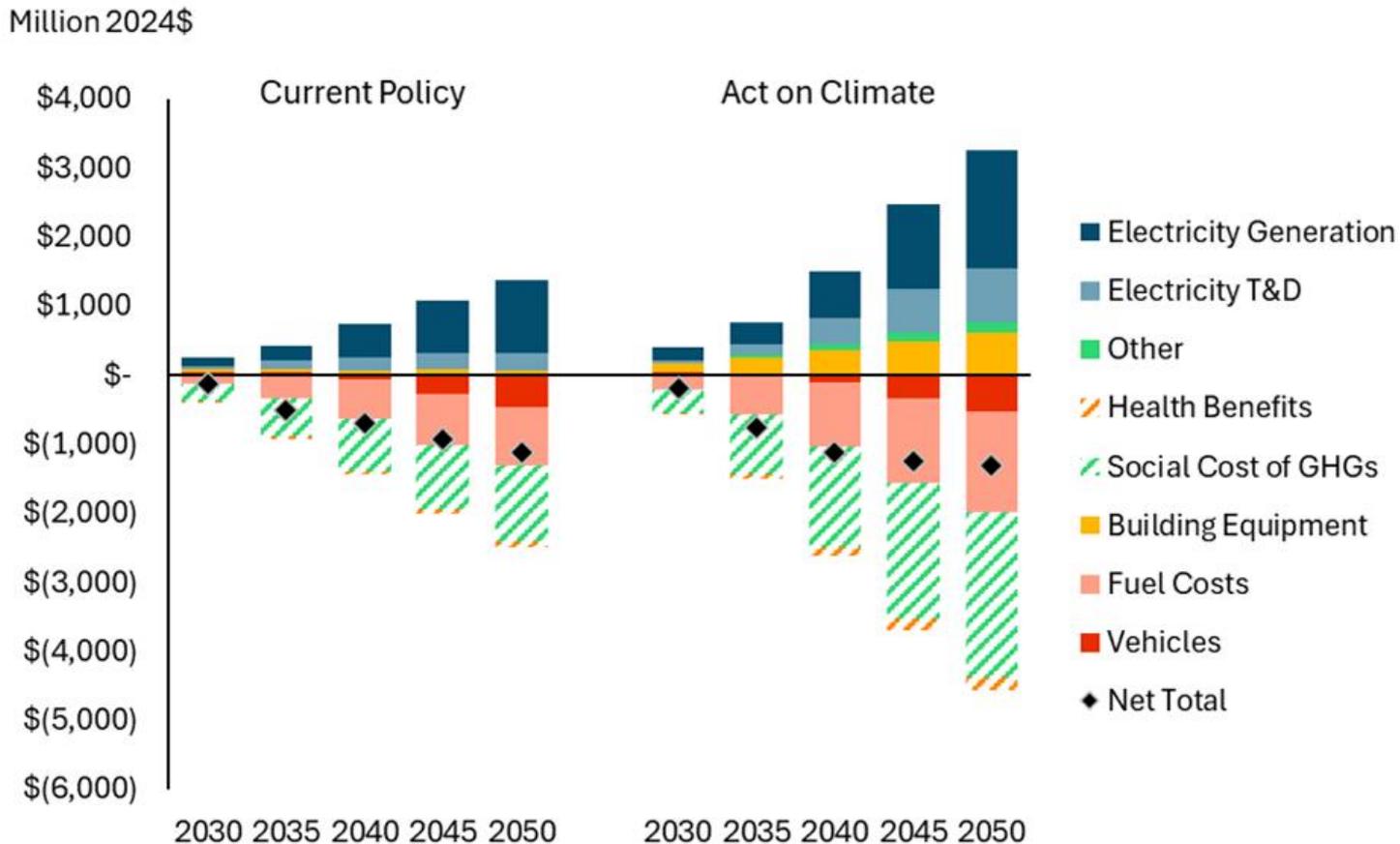


Figure 1. Cumulative Impact of Efficiency Investments on RI Electric Supply Requirements (2005-2024).

Source: [Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council 2025 Program Report](#)

Figure 27: Societal Costs and Benefits vs. BAU



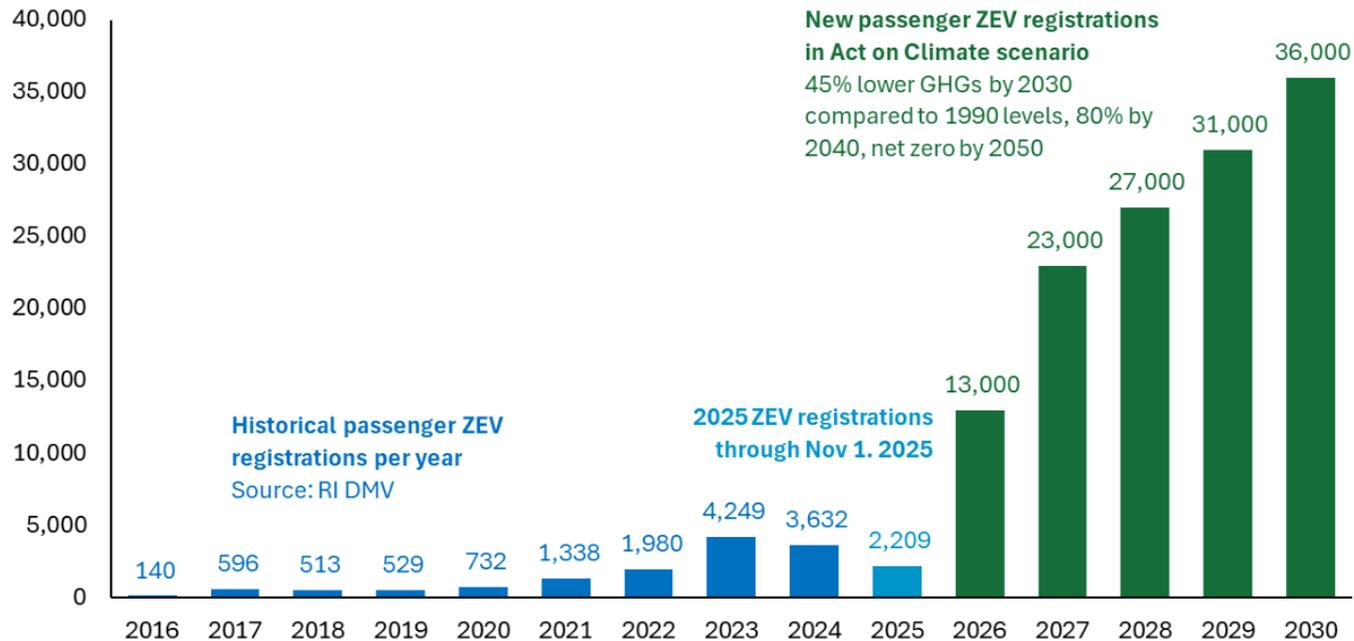
Source: 2025 Rhode Island Climate Action Strategy, p. 81

Technology adoption needed for AOC

Figure 5: New Annual EV Registrations Needed to Reach Act on Climate¹³

Passenger EV Registrations in Act on Climate Scenario

Annual Passenger ZEV Registrations



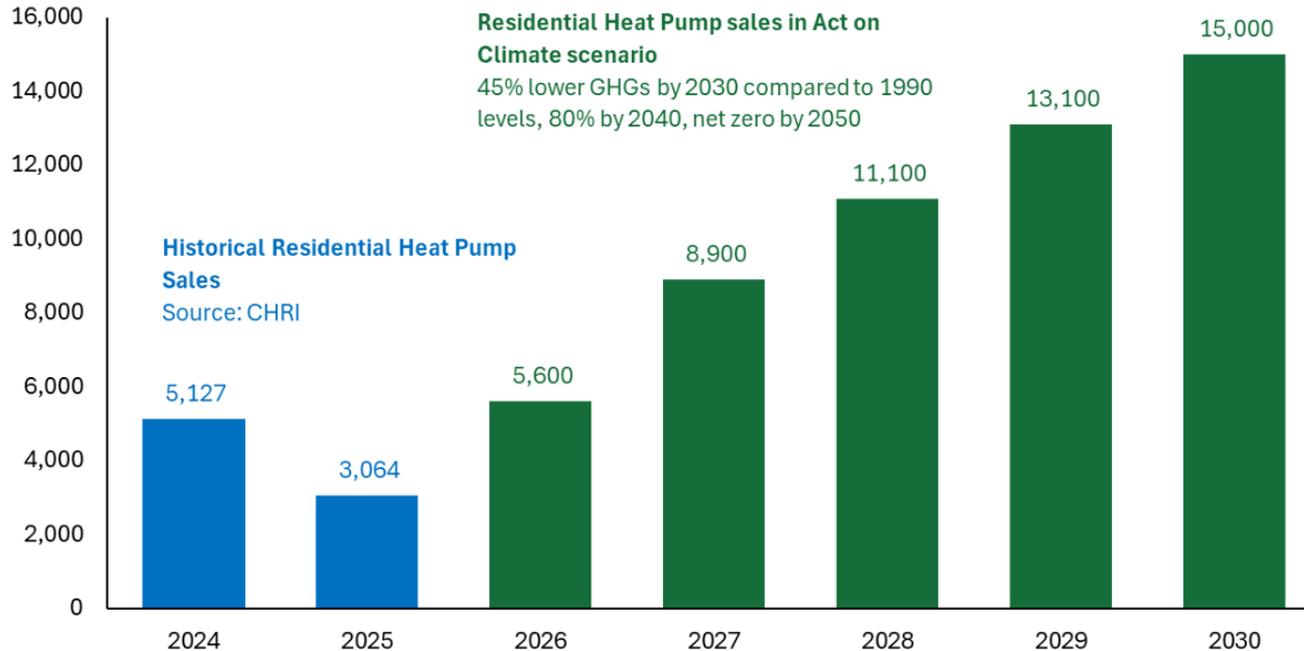
Source: 2025 Rhode Island Climate Action Strategy, p. 16

Technology adoption needed for AOC

Figure 6: Annual Heat Pump Sales Required to Reach Act on Climate Scenario¹⁹

HP Sales in Act on Climate scenario

Annual Heat Pump Sales



Source: 2025 Rhode Island Climate Action Strategy, p. 18

Legislative action to support Act on Climate

- Building Benchmarking (S2260) and Building Performance Standards (S2218)
- Clean Heat Standard
- Termination of Line Extension Allowances (S2354)
- Adjust the FY27 budget proposal
 - Retain the existing RES
 - Eliminate the cap on energy efficiency program budgets and grid access fee for solar developments

Electrification as an energy affordability solution

Gas costs are projected to rise in the coming years ([E3 Future of Gas Technical Report](#), pg. 64) and ensuring a managed transition to electrification can protect vulnerable customers.

- Ratepayers need to be able to rely on stable electricity prices, and natural gas will not provide that.
- A managed transition to electrification and adoption of new electric rate structures can ensure that RI is able to bring down electricity costs over the long term.
- Electric equipment is far more efficient than gas counterparts and reduce emissions even when powered by a dirty grid.

Thank You! Questions?



Tina Munter

RI Policy Advocate

Tina@greenenergyconsumers.org