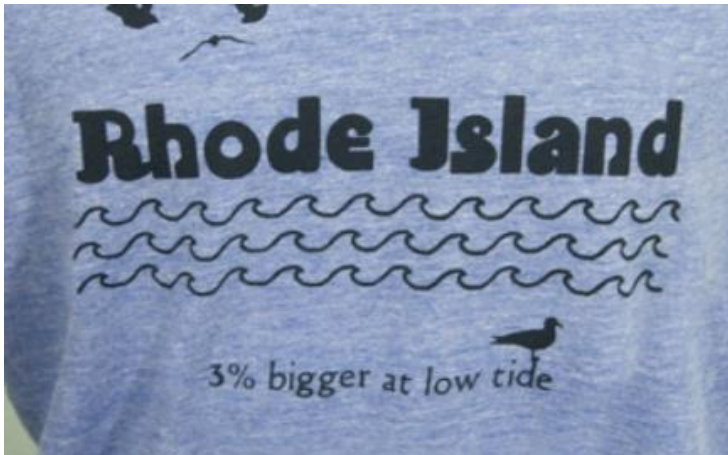




**SUSTAINPVD**  
MAYOR JORGE ELORZA







In 1790 Samuel Slater and Moses Brown opened the first water-powered cotton-spinning factory in the United States in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, thus beginning a new age of industrialization.



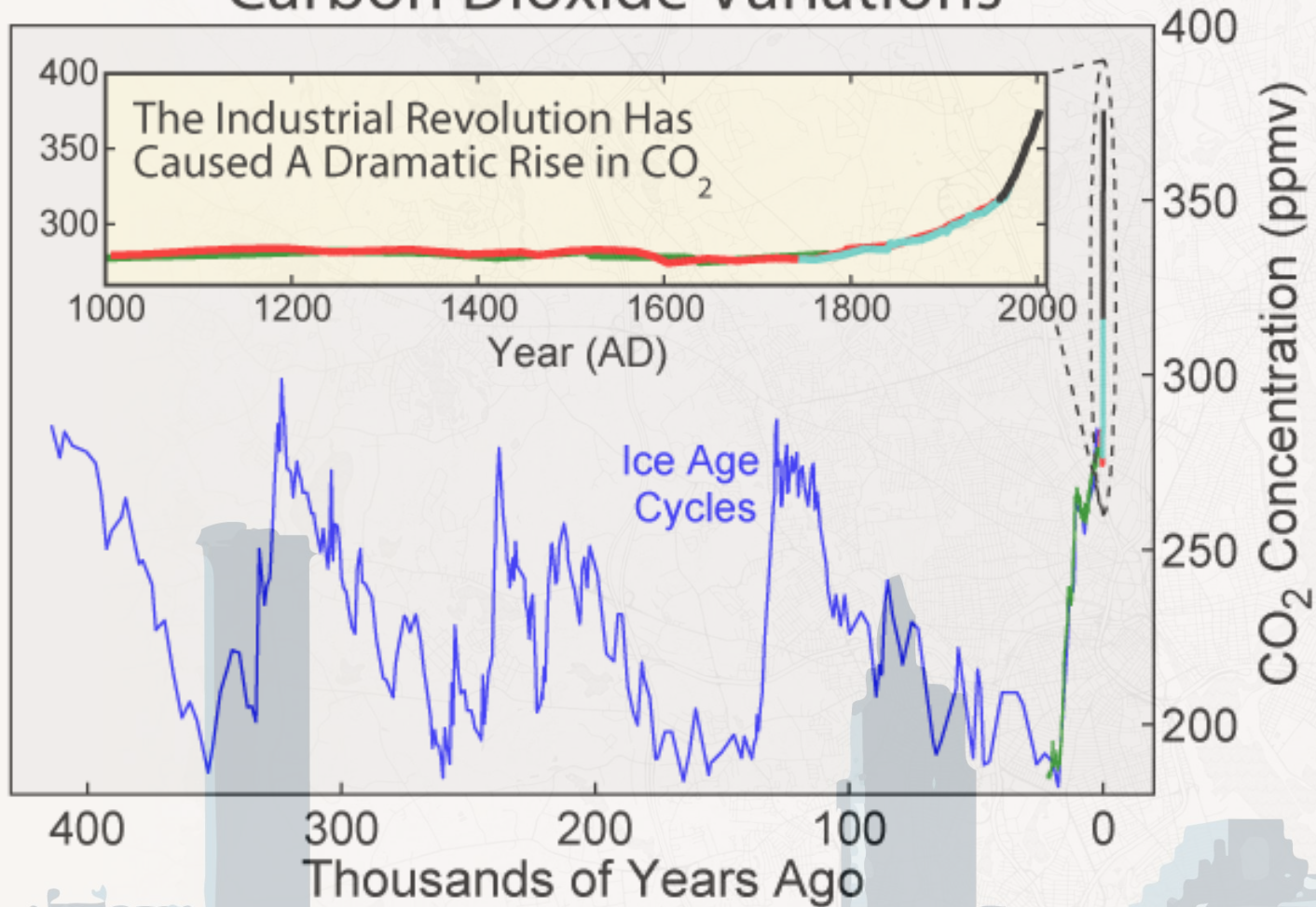
**PROVIDENCE, R.I.**

1848

Small text blocks containing names and addresses, likely a directory or index for the city.

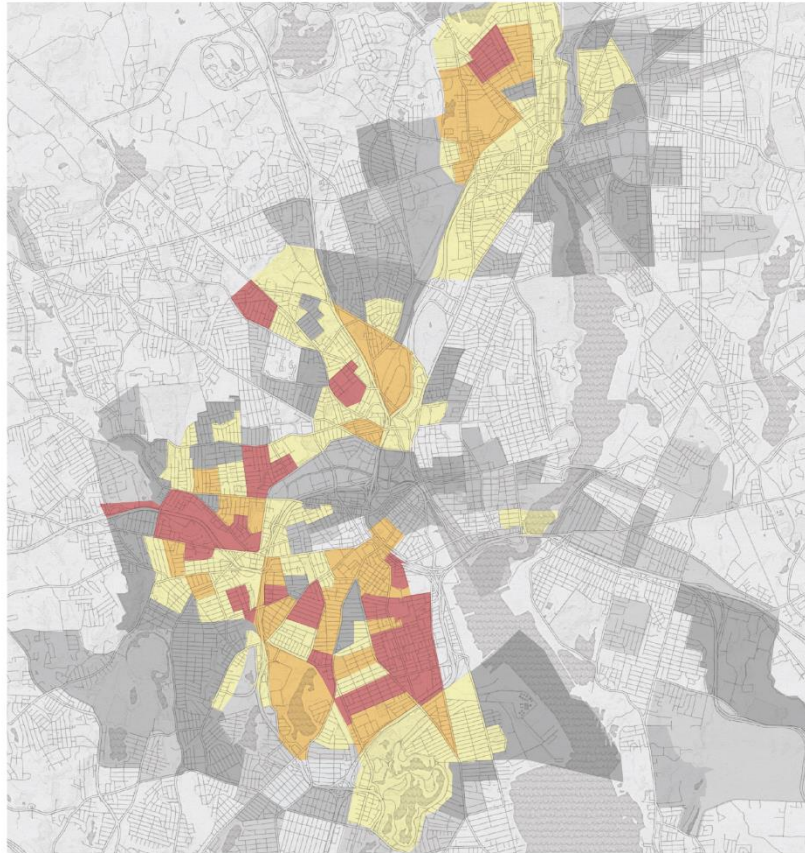


# Carbon Dioxide Variations



## Environmental Justice Screening Map: Frontline Communities

### Demographic Data (National Percentiles)



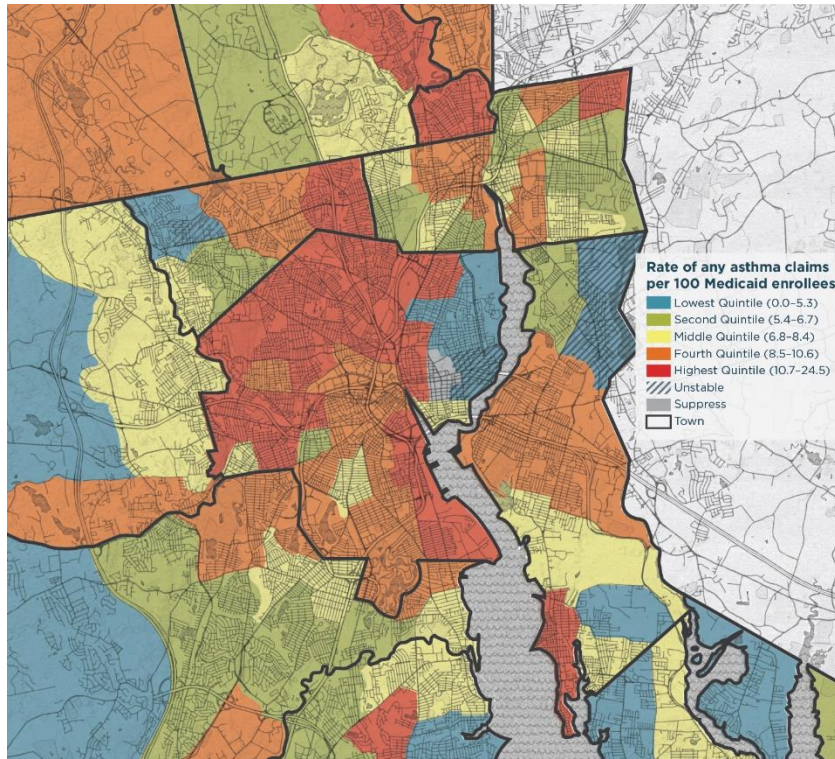
**Frontline communities are communities of color most impacted by the crises of ecology, economy and democracy.**

In Providence, they generally include the Indigenous, African-American, Black, Latinx, and Southeast Asian communities.

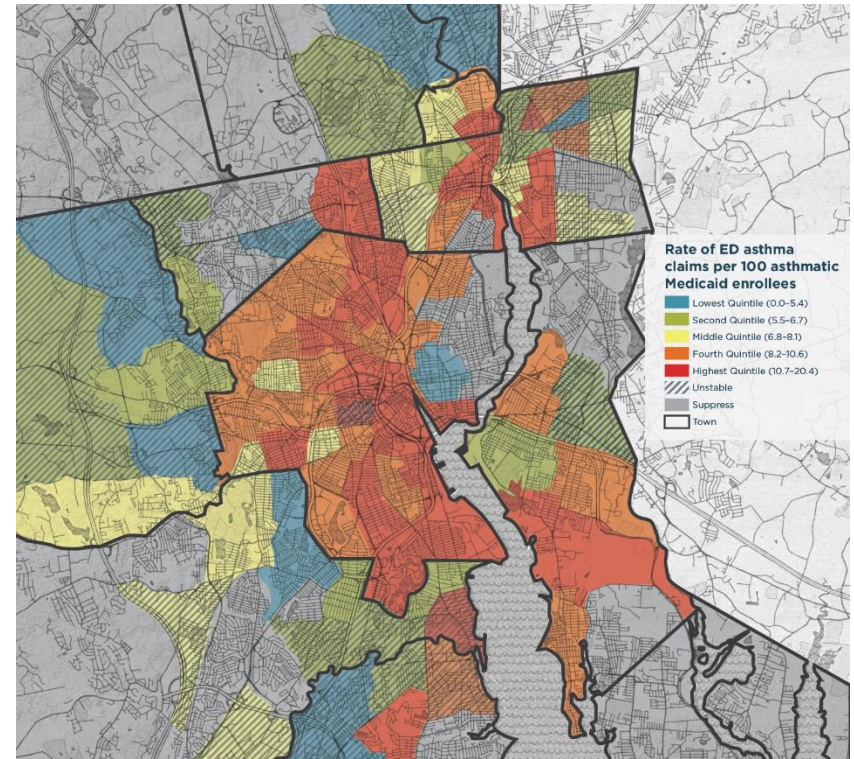
EJSCREEN identifies parts of South Providence, Washington Park, Olneyville, Manton, Silver Lake, Wanskuck, and the West End as frontline communities.



## Rate of Children with Asthma in Medicaid

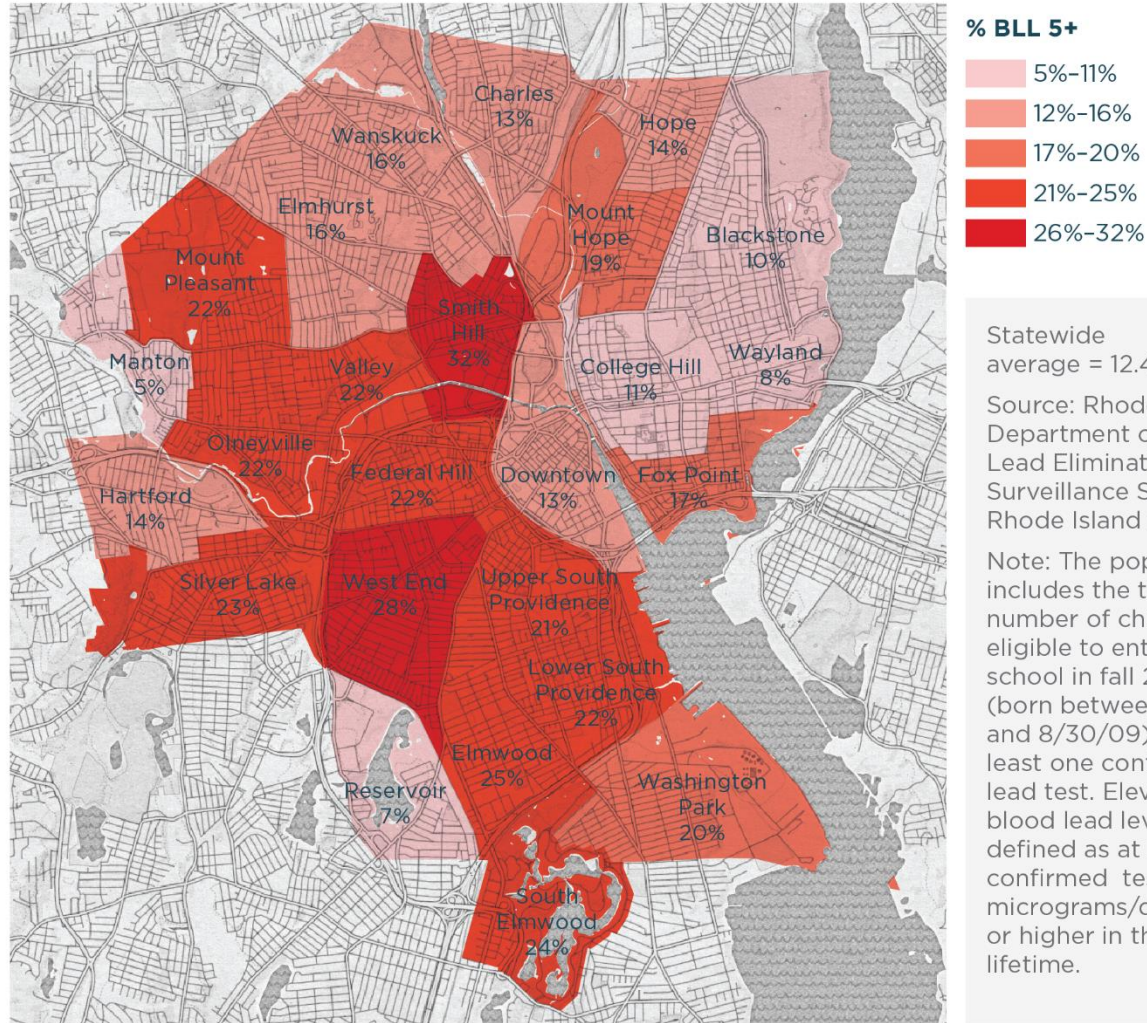


## Rate of Asthma Emergency Department Visits for Children with Asthma in Medicaid



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, with data analysis and maps produced by the Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute at Brown University. Data source: Medicaid claims data for Rhode Island children, 2013-2017: insurance claims with primary diagnosis of asthma (ICD-9 493, ICD-10 J45)

## Kindergarten-Aged Children Who Have Had Elevated Blood Levels in Providence, 2014

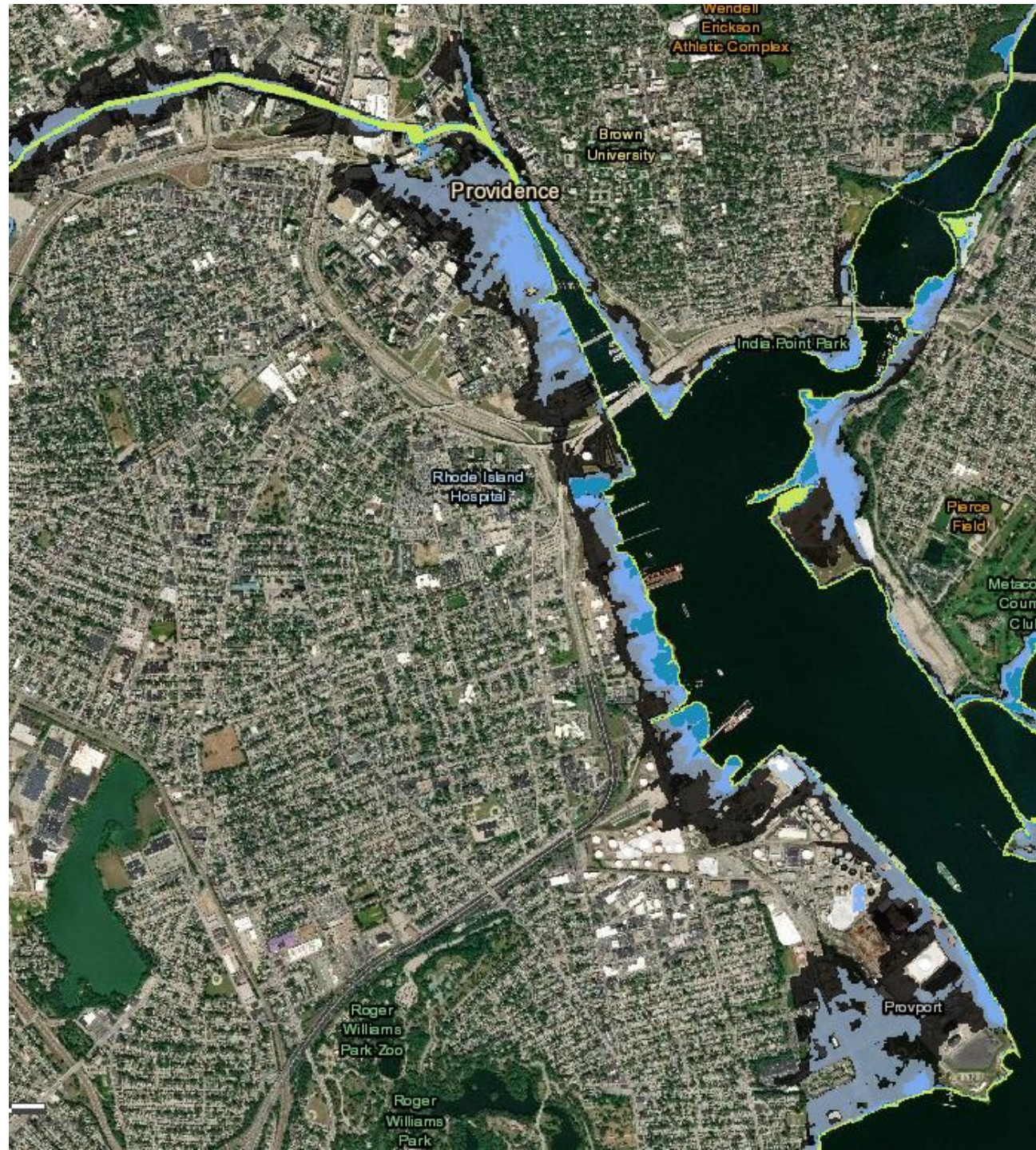


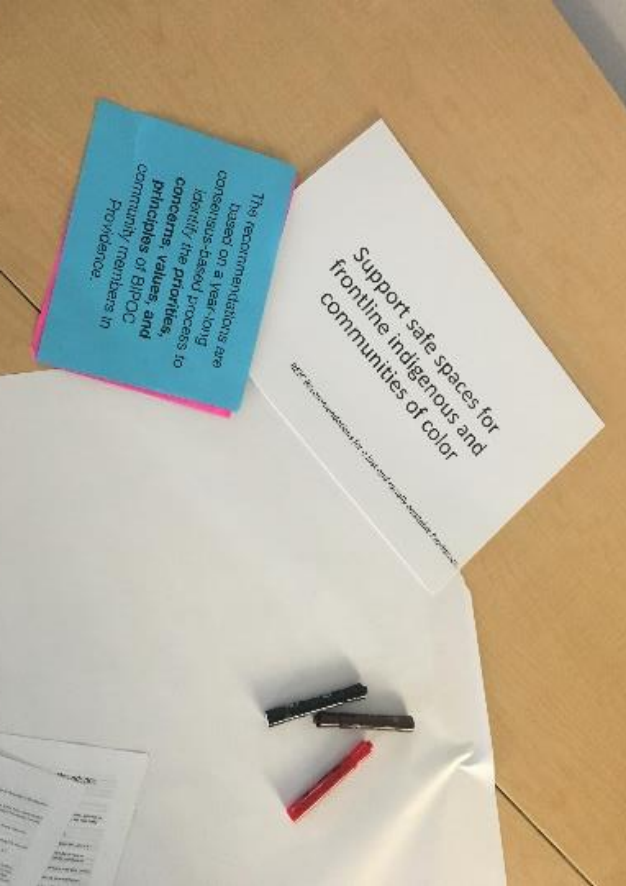
# *Sea-level Rise Impacts*

2030: Yellow

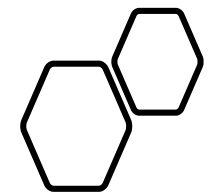
2050: Teal

2010: Black



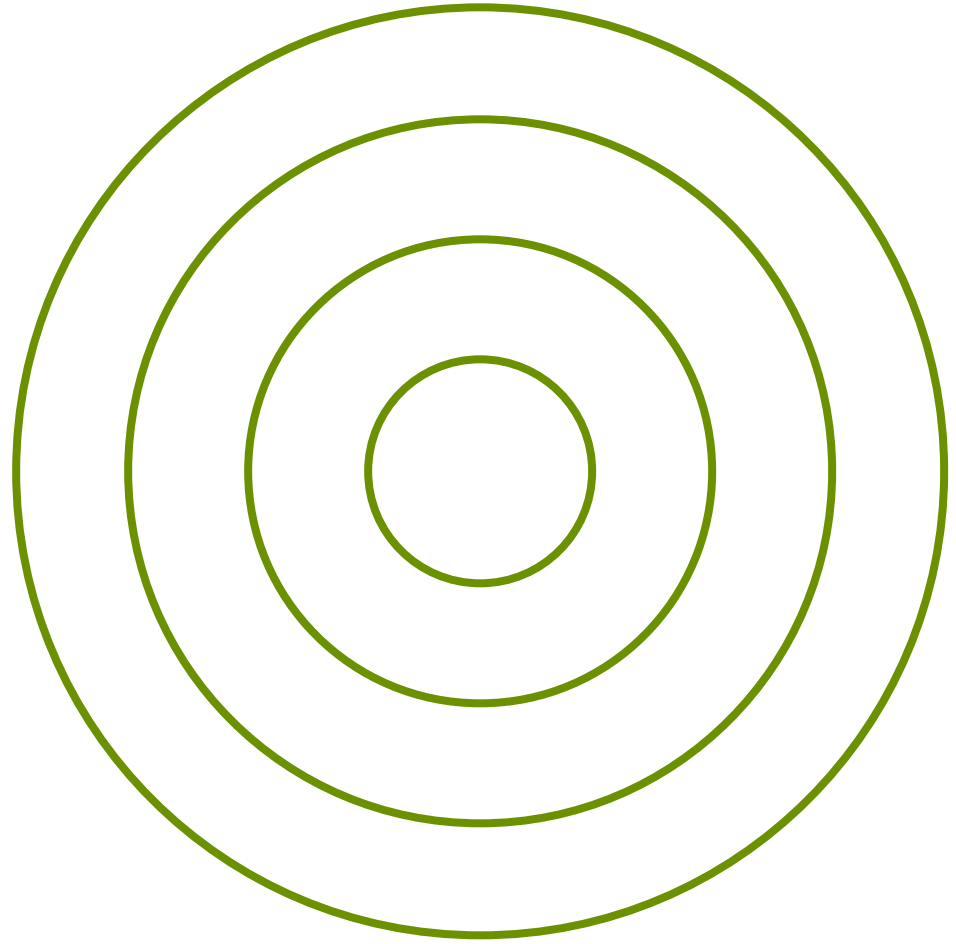
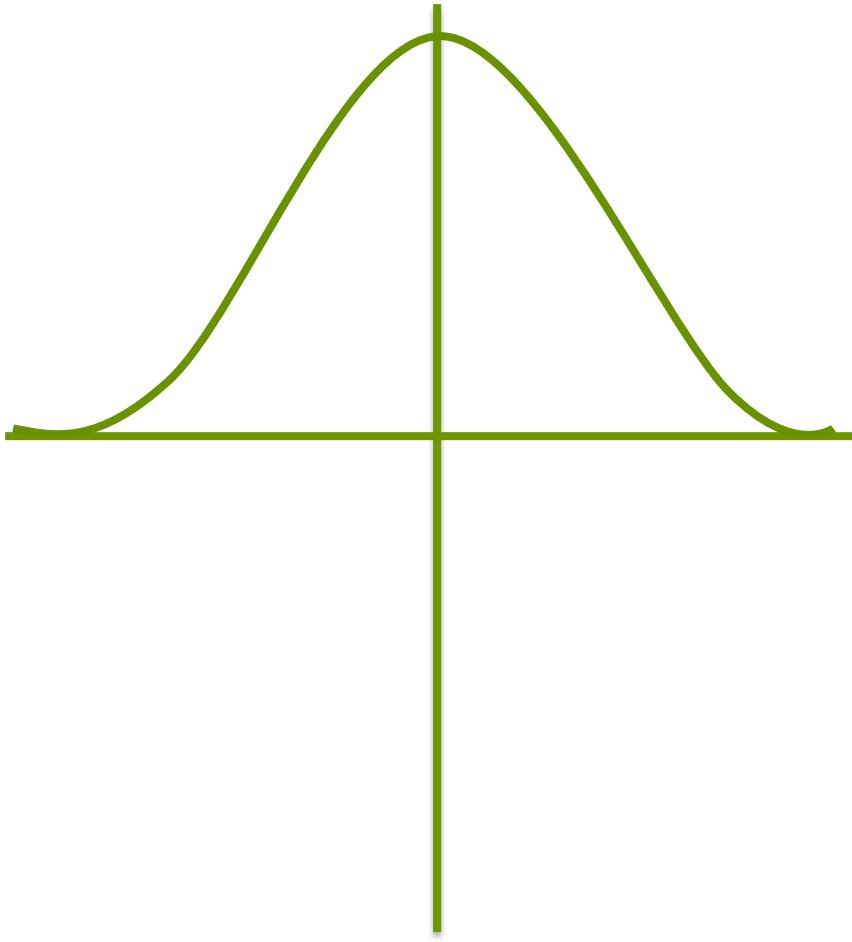


# Equity in Sustainability Initiative





# Targeted Universalism



## Excerpts from The Just Providence Framework

### A Racially Equitable & Just Providence:

The full version is available at [www.providenceRI.gov/sustainability/equity](http://www.providenceRI.gov/sustainability/equity).

#### 1 Moves us toward el Buen Vivir.

- Ensuring that **frontline communities** enjoy their fundamental right to **quality of life** and liberty and to live free from discrimination and oppression;
- Prioritizing the well-being of our children, youth and elders;
- Centers conversations about the future of Providence on the communities most affected by inequities.

#### 2 Supports Safe Spaces for Frontline Communities of Color

including politically and financially supporting physical and psychological safe spaces built by and for **frontline communities** where we can heal and lead. Acknowledging **gentrification** and committing to stopping the **displacement** of indigenous and people of color, especially by developers and universities; An end to surveillance, police brutality in **frontline communities** that creates a culture of fear and repression.

#### 3 Knows people are sacred and respects their cultures.

#### 4 Upholds Self Determination.

**Frontline communities** are autonomous and have the right to craft decisions that impact their lives and their communities. **Frontline communities** have the resilience and expertise to be our own leaders. It is only in the dignity of our **self determination** that we can thrive as a community.

#### 5 Co-creates and co-leads governance

with **frontline communities** of color and the City of Providence to protect the space for communities' **self-determination**, and ensure equitable access to resources, information, and power.

#### 6 Values education for our children and youth.

#### 7 Practices Local, Regional, National and International Solidarity.

#### 8 Supports meaningful work.

#### 9 Requires building a sustainable local economy

in which we produce and consume to live well without living better at the expense of others.

This includes:

- Zero Waste
- Clean and Efficient Public Transportation
- Clean Community Energy
- Regional Food & Water Systems
- Efficient, Affordable, Durable Housing
- Ecosystem Restoration & Stewardship

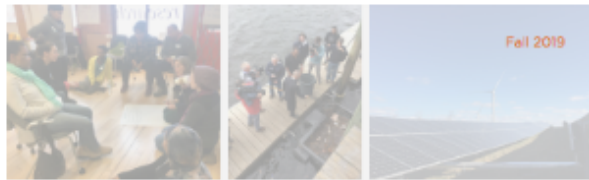
#### 10 Respects Community rights to Land, Water, and Food Sovereignty by:

- Supporting land ownership by people of color.
- Supporting education for people of color about their rights to land, water and food.

#### 11 Works to end the extractive economy.

- Eliminate fossil fuel dependence and wasteful use of scarce metals and minerals;
- Eliminate production of plastics, toxic chemicals, synthetic substances and our dependency on them;
- Reduce waste and eliminate wasteful practices that hurt our environment and ecosystems;
- Eliminate destruction of nature and invasion of natural spaces (e.g., land, water, wildlife, forests, soil, ecosystems).

# Providence's Climate Justice Plan



The City of Providence's

## CLIMATE JUSTICE PLAN

Creating an equitable, low-carbon, and climate resilient future.



### ANNOUNCING THE RELEASE OF PROVIDENCE'S CLIMATE JUSTICE PLAN!

Providence's Climate Justice Plan, co-developed by the City of Providence's Office of Sustainability and the Racial and Environmental Justice Committee of Providence, includes seven key objectives, 20+ targets, and over 50 strategies aiming to create a truly equitable, low-carbon, climate resilient city.

The Plan sets forth concrete carbon-reduction targets in buildings and transportation sectors while promoting clean energy sources. It also addresses the system-level changes that are needed in our governance structures, our economic system, and the overall health of our communities to ensure a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels. The Plan provides near-term policy and program recommendations to meet these targets and highlights the incredible climate action already taking place within the Providence community.

[Read the Plan \(English\)](#)

[Read the Plan \(Spanish\)](#)

[Read the Executive Summary \(English\)](#)

[Read the Executive Summary \(Spanish\)](#)



## Equitable Process for Equitable Outcomes

In order to create a climate plan that supports **frontline communities**, the Office of Sustainability partnered with the Racial and **Environmental Justice** Committee to apply the Just Providence Framework – a set of principles developed by frontline community members of Providence – to the planning process which provides guiding principles and values. The process included the following steps:

1

### Agreement between the REJC, City of Providence and consultants on a community-centered process:

including defined roles and responsibilities and the formation of a project team comprised of members of the REJC, City, a third-party facilitator, and consultants. The project team's skills included the lived experiences of local frontline community members, arts education and management, community organizing, climate and environmental policy, **energy democracy**, consensus building and facilitation, **racial equity**, **environmental justice**, language justice expertise and placed-based regenerative development.

2

### Community-led education and training in energy democracy:

To begin the decision-making process, the project team needed to ensure that the community had the resources and information needed to make decisions about energy in Providence. The REJC worked with a cohort of frontline community members for a program to understand how our energy system currently works, and what a more equitable, just, and carbon-free system might look like. Through the **Energy Democracy** Community Leaders Program, 10 frontline community members of Providence were trained by the REJC, Shalini Gupta (a climate, energy and **environmental justice** policy consultant), Adeola Oredola, a local facilitator and equity expert, and One Square World (an equity and sustainability process consultancy). This program took place in the summer of 2018 via a series of Saturday workshops. At these workshops, participants learned about **environmental justice** and **energy democracy**; how energy is produced, distributed and consumed; the impact of fossil fuels on communities of color; strategies for **energy democracy** possible for Providence including those addressing major polluters, transportation and buildings; and basic organizing and base building skills. The educational program concluded with a combined retreat of the Community Leaders and the full REJC, where we took a deep dive into the Providence energy system and concepts of **energy democracy**.

3

### Peer-led interviews of frontline community members:

In the fall of 2018, REJC members and Community Leaders conducted 40 interviews with community members of color to understand how they experience our current fossil fuel-based system in Providence. Interview responses were recorded via phone audio recorder and written on forms. The results of these interviews are in the Appendix. Participants were asked four simple questions:

How do you keep warm in the winter? What do you like about that and what would you change?

How do you keep cool in the summer? What do you like about that and what would you change?

How do you get around the city? What is good about that and what would you change?

What in your community keeps you and/or your family healthy? What do you think makes you or your family sick?

The City also conducted a citywide survey that included similar questions, along with demographic information. Over 150 people responded to the survey. A summary of the results is in the Appendix.

4

### Design solutions based on the priorities and concerns of frontline communities:

From these interviews, the project team identified key priorities and concerns and began to formulate potential policies that would be responsive to community priorities.

5

### Reflect policies and actions back to community members via "Future Stories":

In order to return to community members with solutions for feedback and direction, the initial policies and actions were presented alongside stories from the perspective of future residents of Providence. This helped community members visualize how their communities could change depending on the policies and actions being presented. Community members noted what they liked and did not like about the future stories.

6

### Refinement and finalization of policies based on community feedback with the project team:

Consultants, the City, and the REJC discussed and refined the goals, targets, and strategies to meet community priorities and be effective in a Providence-specific context. Policies were then pulled into the final report form and reviewed to ensure mutual agreement before the report was released.

## From the frontline of Providence's climate crisis

"Not every room in my house has heat! **Radiators are missing or broken.** Windows are a mess and the outside air come right through the walls. Gotta use space heaters, but can't really afford it. ... [Summer is] so hot I have to go outside. Can't even open windows in my apartment. More access to AC would make a big difference for my family."

"There are not enough places for kids to play and be near nature. Even Roger Williams Park is surrounded by highways!"

"Every time our community gets cleaned up, white folks want it and start moving us out. ... **We need to make sure we won't get kicked out before we push to make good things happen.**"

"Those huge tanks at the **Port** are just scary. They look like they could blow up anytime. Wait, I think something did a few months ago! And then nasty stuff spilled on Allens. **What are they bringing in and out of there anyway? Definitely not benefiting me, just adds to traffic pollution and make me wish I could move.**"

"Why are buses in RI so hard to use? Not enough routes and stops. Not on time. You just need a car around here, and if you can't afford one it is really difficult to get around."

# Essential Conditions for Collaborative Governance

- 1) Commitment to Collaborative Governance Model:** Build the capacity for collaboration and break down existing barriers to equitable participation. Use clear and transparent decision-making processes in which frontline community members participate to ensure decisions do not cause additional harm and instead advance equitable solutions.
- 2) Purpose Clarity:** Take time to align around a shared purpose that advances goals only attainable through collaboration. Partner with frontline community organizations and community members to define problems and design solutions.
- 3) Community Organizing & Power Building:** Through organizing activities, community leaders are able to understand resident priorities and needs and can effectively represent and be accountable to the interests of their communities.
- 4) Community Resourcing:** A community resourcing strategy allows for equitable participation by impacted communities. Hire community-based organizations/businesses whenever possible. Resourcing should include stipends to participating community leaders and meeting other basic needs such as food, translation, child care, and timing of meetings.
- 5) City Racial Equity Training & Capacity:** In order to effectively partner with community organizations, local government staff should be resourced with anti-racism, anti-bias and cultural competency trainings and institutionalized practices.
- 6) City Resourcing:** Allocating resources appropriately to ensure the commitment to equity is supported and implemented with concrete solutions. Hire staff who have a system-change and racial equity analysis, as well as lived experience conducive to collaborating effectively with impacted communities.
- 7) Power & Influence of Community Groups within City:** Political voice and power of groups rooted in impacted communities are essential to advancing solutions that actually serve the communities they target and to avoiding the unintended consequences of policies that are meant to solve community challenges.
- 8) Trust & Relationship Building:** Direct relationships between government officials and impacted communities help to ensure policies and plans adopted by government reflect the needs and assets of those most impacted by them. Staff must be supported and encouraged to build authentic relationships with impacted communities.
- 9) Principles and Practices to Ensure Equity at Every Step:** Community groups to assert practices needed to support equitable participation.

*Source: This tool was developed by Rosa González of Facilitating Power, in collaboration with Movement Strategy Center, in part drawing on content from a number of public participation tools, including Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation and the Public Participation Spectrum created by the International Association for Public Participation.*

## Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership

Stance Towards Community	0 Ignore	1 Inform	2 Consult	3 Involve	4 Collaborate	5 Defer To
<b>Impact</b>	Marginalization	Placation	Tokenization	Voice	Delegated Power	Community Ownership
<b>Community Engagement Goals</b>	Deny access to decision-making processes	Provide the community with relevant information	Gather input from the community	Ensure community needs and assets are integrated into process & inform planning	Ensure community capacity to play a leadership role in implementation of decisions	Foster democratic participation and equity by placing full decision-making in the hands of the community; Bridge divide between community & governance
<b>Message to Community</b>	<i>"Your voice, needs &amp; interests do not matter"</i>	<i>"We will keep you informed"</i>	<i>"We care what you think"</i>	<i>"You are making us think, (and therefore act) differently about the issue"</i>	<i>"Your leadership and expertise are critical to how we address the issue"</i>	<i>"It's time to unlock collective power and capacity for transformative solutions"</i>
<b>Activities</b>	Closed door meetings Misinformation Systematic disenfranchisement Voter suppression	Fact sheets Open Houses Presentations Billboards Videos	Public comment Focus Groups Community Forums Surveys	Community organizing & advocacy House Meetings Interactive Workshops Polling Community forums	MOU's with Community-Based Organizations Community Organizing Citizen Advisory Committees Open Planning Forums with Citizen Polling	Community-Driven Planning Consensus building Participatory Action Research Participatory Budgeting <b>Cooperatives</b>
<b>Resource Allocation Ratios</b>	100% systems admin	70-90% to systems admin 10-30% to promotions and publicity	60-80% to systems admin 20-40% to consultation activities	50-60% to systems admin 40-50% to community involvement	20-50% to systems admin 50-70% to community partners	80-100% to community partners and community-driven processes that ideally generate new value and resources that can be invested in solutions

# Future Stories

A truly just and equitable climate action plan will only succeed if the community creates, controls and holds the vision. Using speculative fiction techniques, the Racial and Environmental Justice Committee created scenarios in a future Providence where policy has supported a transformed way for people to be connected to each other, the land, and the City's fight against climate change. Nine Stories provide different perspectives of how Providence has been transformed. The stories can be heard in English and Spanish:



**English**

<http://bit.ly/32R747F>



**Español**

<http://bit.ly/32OXHpa>

[Port Green Justice Zone Story](#)

# What's Next?



Green Justice Zones



Community Choice  
Aggregation



Energy reporting  
for large buildings

