

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**The Narragansett Electric Co.)
d/b/a Rhode Island Energy's)
2024-2025 Last Resort Service)
Procurement Plan)**

Docket No. 24-20-EL

**PRE-FILED TESTIMONY AND SUPPORTING EXHIBITS OF
ELIZABETH A. STANTON, PhD**

**ON BEHALF OF
CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION**

Date Filed: September 16, 2024

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I. INTRODUCTION

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A. My name is Elizabeth A. Stanton. My business address is 6 Liberty Square, PMB98162, Boston MA 02109.

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TITLE AND WORKPLACE.

A. I am the Executive Director and Principal Economist at the Applied Economics Clinic (AEC), a non-profit economic and energy consulting group providing expert testimony, analysis, modeling, policy briefs, and reports to public interest groups on the topics of energy, environment, consumer protection, and equity. AEC also serves to train the next generation of expert technical witnesses and analysts by providing applied, on-the-job training to graduate students in related fields and working proactively to support diversity among both student workers and professional staff.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE.

A. I earned my Ph.D. in economics at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and have taught economics at Tufts University, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and the College of New Rochelle, among others. I am the founder and executive director of the Applied Economics Clinic. I have an extensive publication record, including more than 170 reports, journal articles, books and book chapters as well as more than 50 expert comments and oral and written testimony in public proceedings on topics related to energy, the economy, the environment, and equity. I have submitted expert testimony and comments in Connecticut,

1 Indiana, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania,
2 Puerto Rico, Vermont, and several federal dockets. My work includes testimony and comments
3 on climate plans, energy efficiency plans, alternatives to fossil fuel infrastructure, proposed
4 pipelines, energy storage, and the equitable implementation of a new green economy. In my
5 previous position as a principal economist at Synapse Energy Economics, I led studies
6 examining environmental regulation, cost-benefit analyses, and the economics of energy
7 efficiency and renewable energy. Prior to joining Synapse, I was a senior economist with the
8 Stockholm Environment Institute's Climate Economics Group, where I was responsible for
9 leading the organization's work on the Consumption-Based Emissions Inventory (CBEI) model
10 and on water issues and climate change in the western United States.

11 My articles have been published in Ecological Economics, Renewable Climate Change,
12 Environmental and Resource Economics, Environmental Science & Technology, and other
13 journals. I have published books, including Climate Change and Global Equity (Anthem Press,
14 2014) and Climate Economics: The State of the Art (Routledge, 2013), which I co-wrote with my
15 colleague at Synapse, Dr. Frank Ackerman. I also co-authored Environment for the People
16 (Political Economy Research Institute, 2005, with James K. Boyce) and was a co-editor of
17 Reclaiming Nature: Worldwide Strategies for Building Natural Assets (Anthem Press, 2007, with
18 Boyce and Sunita Narain). My curriculum vitae is attached as Exhibit EAS-1.

19 **Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND**
20 **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION ("PUC")?**

21 A. No.

1 **Q. HAVE YOU EVER PROVIDED EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY IN**
2 **PROCEEDINGS BEFORE OTHER REGULATORY COMMISSIONS?**

3 A. Yes. I have submitted testimony regarding electric planning and infrastructure approval
4 matters before regulatory commissions in Connecticut, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts,
5 Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Puerto Rico.

6 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

7 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR WRITTEN TESTIMONY?**

8 A. The purpose of my testimony is to demonstrate that the methodology used to create the
9 LRS Procurement Plan and rate design needs to be updated to incorporate new policy goals and
10 legislative directives to be considered by the Commission and Division and subsequently applied
11 to Rhode Island Energy (“RIE”).

12 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS.**

13 A. My recommendation is for the Commission to initiate a process or docket in which
14 competing interests and policies can be evaluated and a transparent decision reached to guide
15 future LRS procurement and rate design.

16 **III. REVIEW OF RHODE ISLAND ENERGY PROCUREMENT PLAN**

17 **Q. HAVE YOU HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW RI ENERGY’S**
18 **PROCUREMENT PLAN AND RESPONSES TO CLF’S DATA REQUESTS?**

19 A. Yes.

1 **Q. BASED ON THAT INFORMATION, WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE TO BE THE**
2 **GOALS OF RI ENERGY’S PROCUREMENT PLAN AND RATE DESIGN –**
3 **SPECIFICALLY TWO SEASONAL RATES EACH YEAR?**

4 A. I understand RI Energy’s Procurement Plan and rate design to be to balance two
5 competing concerns: stable rates and low rates. In a 2010 review of its standard offer service
6 procurement strategies to the Commission, RIE’s predecessor National Grid explained that its
7 role was “to engage in electricity purchases that balance competing concerns, such as rate
8 stability and low rate level”.¹ The obligations of an electric utility in 2010 were rate stability and
9 low rate levels. National Grid’s explanation of electric markets and regional planning processes
10 mentions neither greenhouse gases nor climate change.

11 **Q. SINCE THE 2010 STUDY, ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL POLICY**
12 **OUTCOMES THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN DEVELOPING A**
13 **PROCUREMENT PLAN AND SUBSEQUENT RATE DESIGN FOR LRS?**

14 A. Fourteen years later in 2024 Rhode Island’s circumstances are different, RIE’s obligations
15 are different, and the Commission’s responsibilities under state law are different. The 2021 Act
16 on Climate requires all agencies to consider climate change when exercising their authority.
17 Assessment, approval, and changing the underlying rate design structure of Rhode Island’s LRS
18 procurement plan are actions that have an impact on the State’s greenhouse gas emissions and its
19 ability to comply with the Act on Climate, both in the electric sector and in the building sector as
20 it becomes electrified.

¹ RI Energy, Response to Data Request CLF 1-5, at p.7 of 53 (Sept. 13, 2024).

1 **Q. HOW DO THE POLICY GOALS OF EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS, ENERGY**
2 **EFFICIENCY, AND ELECTRIFICATION INTERSECT WITH THE PROCUREMENT**
3 **PLAN AND SUBSEQUENT RATE DESIGN?**

4 A. The only plans offered to date for reducing Rhode Island's building sector emissions have
5 been energy efficiency (0.04 million metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO_{2e}); 0.3
6 percent of 1990 total) and electrification (0.19 MMTCO_{2e}; 1.5 percent of 1990 total) by 2030.²
7 To the extent that Rhode Island's long-range plan to decarbonize its building sector will be
8 electrification, building sector emissions are an electric sector problem. Together electric
9 consumption and the residential heating sector account for 38 percent of Rhode Island's
10 greenhouse gas emissions.

11 Electric energy procurement plans and subsequent rate design lay the critical groundwork
12 for determining: (1) sources of electric procurement for LRS, and (2) rate levels. Both elements
13 have strong, direct impacts on state greenhouse gas emissions. First, contractual arrangements
14 with individual suppliers and/or bundled power purchase agreements differ in their emissions
15 content. RIE's LRS procurement arrangements determine the composition of a majority of
16 Rhode Island's electric purchases and, therefore, the composition of the energy resources of that
17 majority and its resulting emissions. The LRS procurement is the dominating factor in
18 determining the scale of the State's electric-sector emissions.

19 Second, high electric rates and (by extension) the prospect of high electric rates in the
20 future may discourage households from adopting new technologies that would increase their
21 overall electric use including building electrification (heating with electric heat pumps) and

² Rhode Island Executive Climate Council. *Rhode Island 2022 Climate Update*. Available at:
<https://climatechange.ri.gov/media/1261/download?language=en>, p.62

1 electric vehicle purchases. (Put another way, people may be less likely to install heat pumps if
2 electric rates are high or rising.)

3 Rhode Island’s 15 percent penetration target of energy-efficient electric heating
4 technology by 2030, its participation in the multi-state memorandum of understanding that sets
5 ambitious heat pump sales targets for 2030 and 2040, and its goals of the Clean Heat RI program
6 all support the mandate set in the 2021 Act on Climate: a 45 percent reduction on greenhouse gas
7 emissions below 1990 levels by 2030, 80 percent 2040, and net-zero by 2050.³ Higher winter
8 season electric rates, in particular, are a disincentive to Rhode Island households and businesses
9 electrifying the building sector, an essential component of any strategic plan to comply with the
10 Act on Climate.

11 **IV. CONCLUSION**

12 **Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AT THIS TIME?**

13 **A.** Only to reserve the right to supplement this testimony as may be necessary.

³ (1) Rhode Island Executive Climate Council. *Rhode Island 2022 Climate Update*. Available at: <https://climatechange.ri.gov/media/1261/download?language=en>, p. 82. (2) MacMunn, A. February 2, 2024. “Nine States Pledge Joint Action to Accelerate Transition to Clean Buildings.” *NESCAUM*. Available at: <https://www.nescaum.org/documents/2.7.24-nescaum-mou-press-release.pdf>, p. 1. (3) Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources. N.A. “Clean Heat RI.” Available at: <https://energy.ri.gov/heating-cooling/clean-heat-ri>. (4) Rhode Island Title 42, Section 6.2-9 (2001). 2021 Act on Climate. Available online: <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE42/42-6.2/42-6.2-9.htm>.

Attachment EAS-1

Elizabeth A. Stanton, Ph.D., Executive Director and Principal Economist

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Applied Economics Clinic, Arlington, MA. *Executive Director and Senior Economist*, February 2017 – Present.

The Applied Economics Clinic provides technical expertise to public service organizations working on topics related to the environment, consumer rights, the energy sector, and community equity. Dr. Stanton is the Founder and Director of the Clinic (www.aeclinic.org).

Liz Stanton Consulting, Arlington, MA. *Independent Consultant*, August 2016 – January 2017.

Providing consulting services on the economics of energy, environment and equity.

Synapse Energy Economics Inc., Cambridge, MA. *Principal Economist*, 2012 – 2016.

Consulted on issues of energy economics, environmental impacts, climate change policy, and environmental externalities valuation.

Stockholm Environment Institute - U.S. Center, Somerville, MA. *Senior Economist*, 2010–2012; *Economist*, 2008 – 2009.

Wrote extensively for academic, policy, and general audiences, and directed studies for a wide range of government agencies, international organizations, and nonprofit groups.

Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, Medford, MA. *Researcher*, 2006– 2007.

Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Amherst, MA. *Editor and Researcher – Natural Assets Project*, 2002 – 2005.

Center for Popular Economics, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Amherst, MA. *Program Director*, 2001 – 2003.

EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Amherst, MA

Doctor of Philosophy in Economics, 2007

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM

Master of Arts in Economics, 2000

School for International Training, Brattleboro, VT

Bachelor of International Studies, 1994

AFFILIATIONS

Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, Medford, MA.

Senior Fellow, Visiting Scholar, 2007 – 2020

PAPERS AND REPORTS

Stanton, E.A., B. Woods, T. Stasio, J. Burt, D. Garraway, N. Biswas, and A. Shute. 2024. *Illinois Adult Use Cannabis Industry Disparity Study*. Applied Economics Clinic. Prepared on behalf of Illinois Cannabis Regulation Oversight Office. [\[Online\]](#)

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- Stanton, E.A., R. Lopez, and B. Woods. 2018. *Review of Proposed CAFE and CO₂ Standards*. Applied Economics Clinic. Prepared for California Attorney General Office and California Air Resources Board. [\[Online\]](#)
- Stanton, E.A., R. Lopez, B. Woods, T. Stasio, and A. Sommer. 2018. *Report on Indiana's 2018 Draft Statewide Analysis of Future Resource Requirements of Electricity*. Applied Economics Clinic. Prepared for Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana. [\[Online\]](#)
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- Stanton, E.A., and T. Comings. 2018. *Massachusetts Clean Energy Bill Provisions Boost Jobs*. Applied Economics Clinic. Prepared for Barr Foundation. [\[Online\]](#)
- Stanton, E.A., T. Comings, R. Wilson, S. Alisalad, E.N Marzan, C. Schlegel, B. Woods, J. Gifford, E. Snook, and P. Yuen. 2018. *An Analysis of the Massachusetts 2018 'Act to Promote a Clean Energy Future' Report*. Applied Economics Clinic. Prepared for Barr Foundation. [\[Online\]](#)
- Woods, B., C. Schlegel, and E.A. Stanton. 2018. *Massachusetts' Clean Energy Policy Overview*. Applied Economics Clinic. Prepared for Barr Foundation. [\[Online\]](#)
- Comings, T., E.A. Stanton, and B. Woods. 2018. *The ABCs of Boston CCE*. Applied Economics Clinic. Prepared for Barr Foundation. [\[Online\]](#)
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- Stanton, E.A., R. Wilson, and B. Woods. 2018. *Missed Opportunities for Energy Efficiency in Virginia*. Applied Economics Clinic. Prepared for the Consumers Union. [\[Online\]](#)
- Stanton, E.A., T. Comings, and A. Sommer. 2018. *The Husker Energy Plan: A New Energy Plan for Nebraska*. Applied Economics Clinic. Prepared for the Nebraska Wildlife Foundation. [\[Online\]](#)
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Attachment EAS-2

- Mode shifting reduces vehicle miles traveled (VMT), which takes more vehicles off the road and reduces traffic congestion.
- Through this scenario, Rhode Island avoids approximately **0.23 MMTCO₂e of GHG emissions** in 2030.
- 7.9% of all GHG emissions reductions modeled in the EPS are attributed to mode shifting.

Altogether, clean transportation-related policies modeled in the EPS help Rhode Island avoid 0.56 MMTCO₂e of GHG emissions in 2030.

THERMAL - ENERGY CODE

1. STRENGTHEN RI'S BUILDING ENERGY CODE

- More efficient building codes are vital to eliminate wasted energy, lower energy bills, and reduce carbon emissions that cause climate change.
- Under this scenario, the EPS modeled continuous adoption of the most recent IEEC model energy code for residential buildings and the most recent ASHRAE Standard 90.1 for commercial buildings for all code cycles falling between 2021 and 2030.
- Improvements to energy code efficiency requirements combined with an estimated rate of new construction in the state over the next decade results in an estimated **1.3% reduction in total building energy use in the state by 2030** relative to the BAU scenario.
- Through this scenario, Rhode Island avoids **0.04 MMTCO₂e** of GHG emissions in 2030.
- 1.5% of all GHG emissions reductions modeled in the EPS are attributed to strengthening energy codes.

THERMAL - ELECTRIFICATION

1. INCREASE EFFICIENT ELECTRIFICATION OF BUILDING SPACE AND WATER HEATING

- The persistent reliance on fossil fuels makes buildings one of the largest sources of GHG emissions.
- Under this scenario, the EPS modeled an **aspirational target of 15% of space and water heating demand in all buildings** being provided by efficient electric appliances (e.g., heat pumps and heat pump water heaters) by 2030.
- The EPS analysis shows that 22% of sales of new non-electric space heating equipment and 8% of the sales of new non-electric water heating equipment are replaced with the sale of efficient electric equipment from 2021 to 2030.
- Through this scenario, Rhode Island avoids **approximately 0.19 MMTCO₂e** of GHG emissions in 2030.
- 6.7% of all GHG emissions reductions modeled in the EPS are attributed the efficient electrification of building space and water heating.

LAND USE

1. ADOPT A NO NET LOSS FOREST POLICY

- Trees and vegetation absorb and store carbon dioxide. If forests are cleared, or even disturbed, they release greenhouse gases. Forest loss and damage cause rising GHG emissions.

Attachment EAS-3

PRIORITIZE EFFICIENCY TO DECREASE FUEL USAGE

The first way to reduce emissions from the thermal sector is to improve energy efficiency, so we use less fuel. This can be done by improving the efficiency of appliances and by improving the weatherization of buildings.

CONTINUE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS AND WEATHERIZATION

Weatherization of buildings is key to ensuring a successful transition to decarbonized heating and cooling, because it helps to decrease our overall energy demand. While the utilities' efficiency programs support a number of weatherization programs and appliance efficiency standards, these should continue to be expanded.

STRATEGIC ELECTRIFICATION

One pathway to thermal decarbonization is through strategic electrification. Converting thermal processes from fossil fuel power to energy efficient electric appliances can reduce emissions immediately. Air source heat pumps, for example, are three times more efficient at providing heat than fossil fuel heating systems, resulting in an immediate increase in fuel efficiency. The emissions of electric appliances for thermal processes will continue to decrease to zero, as we move toward the state's 100% Renewable Energy Standard by 2033.

Converting fossil fuel technologies to electric power will pose new challenges for our electric grid. According to the Heating Sector Transformation Report, 100% electrification of the thermal sector is not only unlikely, but also not cost effective.⁸⁴ Electrification is not appropriate for certain components of the thermal sector, such as high-heat industrial processes. Additionally, we must be cognizant of the impacts heat pump conversions will have on our electric distribution system. As we design incentives and other mechanisms to support the market for electrification, we need to remain strategic in how we plan for necessary changes to the electric system and simultaneously support other decarbonization technologies to reach our emissions reductions targets.

TARGET 15% PENETRATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENT ELECTRIC HEATING BY 2030

A conversion of 15% of Rhode Island's buildings from fossil fuel heat to efficient electric heating by 2030 is an aggressive, but attainable and necessary target. This rate of conversion will reduce thermal sector emissions by an estimated 0.19MMT CO_2e ⁸⁵. While the market for efficient electric heating—including a variety of heat pump technologies—is relatively nascent in Rhode Island, the next several years will be used to build a strong foundation for the market to expand at a quicker pace in the last two decades as we approach 2050. The priority actions below, will help us reach this 15% target and plan for further expansion, in tandem with other decarbonized thermal technologies, post 2030.

EFFICIENT HEAT PUMP INCENTIVES

There are several mechanisms for incentivizing efficient heat pumps that are expected to be used in the coming years. First, the Office of Energy Resources will be launching the High Efficiency Heat Pump Program (HHPP)⁸⁶ in 2023, which will combine federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) with existing incentives provided by Rhode Island Energy's energy efficiency programs. The aim of the program is to create a robust incentive program, extending greater financial incentives to more Rhode Islanders who want to convert to efficient heat pumps. The program will also emphasize education and workforce development to build a solid market for this efficient, and ultimately emissions-free, thermal technology.

Second, the Inflation Reduction Act, recently passed by the U.S. Congress, will provide a suite of

Attachment EAS-4

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Nine States Pledge Joint Action to Accelerate Transition to Clean Buildings

New Memorandum of Understanding sets a goal for highly efficient heat pumps to make up 65% of residential heating, cooling and water heating equipment sales by 2030 across participating states

Industry experts say MOU bolsters market shift to high-efficiency, zero-emission electric technologies, and away from fossil fuels in effort to stabilize energy bills, improve health, and cut climate pollution amid extreme weather challenges

Boston, Mass. — States from coast to coast have signed a joint agreement to accelerate the transition to pollution-free residential buildings by significantly expanding heat pump sales to meet heating, cooling and water heating demand in coming years. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), led by the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM), has been signed by directors of environmental agencies from California, Colorado, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon and Rhode Island.

Under the MOU, these states have set a shared goal for heat pumps to meet at least 65% of residential-scale heating, air conditioning and water heating shipments by 2030 and 90% by 2040 across the participating states. States will also collaborate to collect market data, track progress, and develop an action plan within a year to support the widespread electrification of residential buildings. This MOU builds on a [September 2023 commitment](#) from the U.S. Climate Alliance's member states and territories to quadruple heat pump installations by 2030.

“Heat pumps and building electrification are the future for healthier homes and a thriving green economy,” said Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Serena McIlwain. “This multi-state partnership will help Maryland meet its ambitious climate goals and strengthen a coalition of states for cleaner air and better health outcomes.”

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos said, “Buildings are the top contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in New York State and actions are well underway to significantly reduce the amount and impact of these emissions on the State level. This new multi-state agreement and the strengthened partnership with participating states will bolster New York State’s ongoing efforts to replace fossil fuel infrastructure and install heat pumps in more homes for the benefit of public health and the environment while setting an example for other states to follow.”

Buildings are a hidden source of air pollution, which comes from combustion of fossil fuels in furnaces, boilers and water heaters. According to NESCAUM, fossil-fueled heating equipment

across the participating states emits annually over 138,000 tons of smog-forming nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and 6,000 tons of fine particulate matter, causing increased risk of heart attack, asthma events, premature death, and many other adverse health outcomes. Buildings also emit annually 173 million metric tons of CO₂ across participating states.

“Rhode Island is proud to join partner states in signing this MOU, which strengthens our commitment to green building investments in order to meet the mandated emissions reductions under [RI’s Act on Climate](#),” said Terry Gray, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM). “The residential heating sector is a primary driver of climate change and remains a large source of our state’s GHG emissions at nearly 20% according to [our most recent emissions inventory](#). Accelerating the transition to zero-emission buildings is an essential step in reducing these harmful emissions that worsen climate change, will advance green energy development, and will help improve the air quality that our residents breathe every day.”

“Buildings play an important role in achieving climate and air quality goals, and efforts that bring zero-emissions solutions are critical to achieving decarbonization,” said Dr. Steven Cliff, Executive Officer for the California Air Resources Board, the state’s lead agency for air pollution control efforts and climate change programs. “California is glad to contribute to an effort that implements innovative solutions to building operations and helps create healthy, vibrant communities.”

Building electrification promises to deliver widespread health benefits, particularly in densely populated communities with high levels of air pollution.

“New Jersey is proud to join sister states committed to climate action in signing this agreement, which will reduce the carbon footprint of buildings by spurring greater use of energy-efficient, non-polluting heat pumps,” said New Jersey Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette. “Implementing zero-emission concepts such as these into our homes and daily lives is integral to addressing the worsening effects of climate change. This effort will benefit our economy, create jobs and contribute to healthy air.”

“Decarbonizing the heating sector is a key element of the Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plan and critical to meet our aggressive climate goals for 2030 and beyond,” said Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “Working with other states on the transition to zero-emission buildings will not only advance our work, but also will build on our longstanding collaboration to address climate change, reduce air pollution, improve public health, and promote sustainability.”

To pave the way for widespread adoption of heat pumps, the agreement emphasizes collaboration with key stakeholders, including heat pump manufacturers and HVAC installers. The transition to efficient electric heating, cooling and water heating has the support of major market players and manufacturers.

“To achieve our shared decarbonization goals, we need to send an unmistakable signal to the marketplace that zero-emission homes are the future. This agreement does that,” said Matt Rusteika, Director of Market Transformation, Building Decarbonization Coalition. “We applaud

NESCAUM and state leaders for a commitment that is ambitious, flexible, and pragmatic. We're looking forward to the exciting work ahead."

A [recent letter](#) from business-focused Ceres united 24 businesses, investors and building owners and operators in stating support to accelerate heat pump adoption. Last year, [ten of the nation's largest manufacturers](#) committed to help California achieve its target of 6 million heat pumps by 2030.

"State policy is critical to accelerating the adoption of building technologies that are good for the climate and good for business. Initiatives that encourage collaboration across state lines to develop best practices are essential to accelerating this transition," said Alli Gold Roberts, Senior Director of State Policy, Ceres. "Ceres and the companies we work with applaud today's memorandum of understanding for its detailed, collaborative, and ambitious approach to cut pollution from the building sector."

To lead by example, states signing the NESCAUM-led MOU committed to promote installation of zero-emission, grid-interactive technologies in existing state buildings. States also seek to direct at least 40% of efficiency and electrification investments to benefit low-income households facing high energy burdens and communities historically burdened with elevated air pollution levels.

"States taking action on this hidden source of pollution are not only delivering healthier air to breathe and a livable climate for their citizens, but also working to ensure that those most burdened by high energy costs and polluted air are the first to benefit," said Emily Levin, Senior Policy Advisor, NESCAUM.

Journalists may request media interviews with NESCAUM staff and signatory state environmental offices about the MOU by contacting: Emily Levin, NESCAUM, elevin@nescaum.org, 617-259-2046.

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About NESCAUM

As the association of air quality agencies in the six New England states, New Jersey, and New York, [NESCAUM](#) catalyzes, guides, and supports state initiatives to improve air quality and address climate change. Formed as a nonprofit organization in 1967 to address air pollution from New England power plants, NESCAUM is the oldest regional air quality organization of its kind. Today, NESCAUM addresses a wide spectrum of air quality, climate, and energy issues on behalf of its member states and their collaborating partners and provides a forum for states to work together to address climate and energy challenges on a collective basis, both regionally and nationally.