ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE THREATS

AIR POLLUTION
- Rhode Island and Vermont, are the only two states with no coal fire plant.
- Providence, however, is the most polluted city in New England, ranking behind Boston.

HEALTH RISKS
- Providence, RI had a record 112 days of high particulate matter in the air.
- Particulate matter can trigger heart attacks, strokes and congestive heart failure.
- Particulate matter is also linked to autism, premature birth and asthma.

FLOODING
- More than 25,000 people in Rhode Island are living in flood-prone areas (defined as FEMA’s 100-year floodplain), which is below average among the 32 states assessed for inland flooding threats.
- By 2050, Rhode Island’s inland flooding threat is projected to see an above average increase of almost 50 percent (assuming the size of the vulnerable population stays the same).

DOES RHODE ISLAND MEET NAACP JUST ENERGY STANDARDS?

TO MEET NAACP JUST ENERGY STANDARDS, RHODE ISLAND MUST HAVE A:

- **Mandatory** Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) with a target of 25% clean energy by 2025 with no nuclear, biomass, or natural gas allowed;
- **Mandatory** Energy Efficiency Resource Standard per NAACP standards, as defined by: at least 2% annual reduction over each previous year’s average retail electricity sales;
- **Mandatory** Local Hire Provisions and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Provisions; and
- **Mandatory** Community Solar Policy, which is legislation that allows communities to take advantage of solar energy.

PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

1. Every Branch will organize an ECJ Committee and chair a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
2. Rhode Island Branches will conduct a Bridging the Gap Convening.
3. Rhode Island State Conference will engage in a Power to the People campaign to increase environmental standards.
4. Every branch will host Sea Level Rise Training and launch a Sea Level Rise Preparedness Project.
5. All Rhode Island NAACP branch leaders will join Climate Action Planning tables.