

# RHODE ISLAND



## 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.