

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WARD 2 LETTER PROVIDENCE

1/13/21

Advancing Climate Justice

This morning I joined Mayor Elorza, members of City Council and the [Office of Sustainability](#), and environmental advocates from our community to announce new policies to move our city toward environmental sustainability.

I am proud to be the lead sponsor of the [Building Energy Reporting Ordinance \(BERO\)](#), which will make public the annual energy use of all Providence buildings over 10,000 square feet. The ordinance, which I will introduce at the January 21st city council meeting, will give us public, measurable data about progress toward our environmental stewardship goals. This annual reporting has been in place since 2010 for buildings owned by the city.

Energy usage from large buildings is an enormous contributor to our municipal carbon footprint, and reduction in emissions has been a proven strategy in dozens of other cities to reduce cost as well as the burden on our planet's future.

I began advocating for this measure in 2017 as a private citizen, and I am so pleased that our community is making this commitment across the private and public sectors to accountability toward climate justice. At today's press conference I was joined by East Sider Peter Case of [TruthBox Architects](#), Howie Snider of [The SteeLYard](#), City Councilor Pedro Espinal and representatives from the [Environmental Sustainability Task Force](#) and the [Racial and Environmental Justice Committee](#). Every one of us has a role to play in our daily lives and in advancing structural change.

- >> [Read the draft ordinance here](#)
- >> [Read the full press release here](#)
- >> [Watch the video of the press conference](#)

City of Providence and Sustainability

Learn more about some of the climate justice initiatives and offices in our city.

Providence Climate Justice Plan

In 2019 the city in partnership with the [Racial and Environmental Justice Committee of Providence](#), which formed in 2016, published a Climate Justice Plan that identifies targets and strategies for creating an equitable, low-carbon, resilient city. >> [Read the plan](#)

Sustain PVD Dashboard

This dashboard seeks to track and share data about the city's progress towards environmental goals. >> [Learn more](#)

Commitment to Carbon Neutrality

In 2016 the city [committed to becoming carbon neutral](#) by 2050. This commitment aligns Providence with the 2014 Resilient Rhode Island Act. >> [Read the executive order](#)

Environmental Sustainability Task Force

Since 2007 Providence has had a task force of residents working in partnership with city offices and advocating for accountability to environmental goals. The task force currently includes East Side neighbors Susan Anderbois, Catherine Van Amburg and Kevin Purdy. Their meetings and minutes are open to the public. [>> Learn more](#)

Providence's Office of Sustainability

In 2008 the Providence City Council approved the creation of the position of Director of Sustainability, which was finally filled in 2011. This brought real momentum to the city's efforts to manage municipal energy usage as well as to ramp up initiatives to engage all sectors and constituents in environmental stewardship. [>> Learn more](#)

To receive regular updates from City Councilwoman Helen Anthony, [sign up for the Ward 2 Letter here](#)

