

In the News: The Act on Climate Bill



The Act on Climate bill passed the Rhode Island House of Representatives 53-22 Tuesday after gaining approval from the state Senate last week. This is the first major climate legislation passed in RI since 2014.

The bill establishes guidelines for more aggressive emission reduction policies and calls for a net-zero Ocean State by 2050. It also amends the 2014 Resilient Rhode Island Act by providing updated and enforceable timelines for emissions standards, as well as emphasizing transparency and accountability.

Beyond shifting the time frame for climate action, the Act on Climate bill places an emphasis on ensuring a just transition while expanding the green energy sector. Specifically, the bill requires the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council to develop decarbonization plans that prioritize recruiting and training those who are

underrepresented in the workforce, including “women, people of color, Indigenous, veterans, formerly incarcerated people and people living with disabilities,” according to the text of the bill.

After four years of effort, the bill finally gained traction from the formation last year of Climate Jobs Rhode Island coalition. Comprising the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, along with allies in the labor movement like RICOSH, and in the Environmental movement like the Green Energy Consumers Alliance Climate Jobs RI is committed to working together to make the development of a 21st Century economy grounded in the principles of economic, environmental, racial and social justice.



Instructors' View from ZOOM

As we slowly transition back to in-person training, you can hear cheers from TNEC instructors. It’s been a year since we transitioned to the virtual platform for our courses. TNEC instructors were quick to get up-to-speed on the platform and how to make it engaging for students. Just because our instructors made the classes a success doesn’t mean they didn’t miss the in-person instruction any less.

As Patricia Strizak, TNEC instructor, said, “there is something to be said for in person instruction versus online but I personally prefer in person training. You have a better connection with students when training in person. I believe students learn better when training is conducted live versus online.” Some instructors have noted that students can be reluctant to ask questions in a virtual format and provide input during online sessions. Neil Hawley, TNEC instructor, noted that “it is also nice not needing to sit at the computer for

long hours.” There are also distractions for students and instructors alike which make it difficult to get their undivided attention.

Even through the height of the pandemic TNEC was able to deliver courses at customers’ facilities. Some customers along with TNEC instructors feel it is hard to replace in-person learning.

Regardless of what platform students decide to learn on, students are guaranteed to receive the best instruction from TNEC.



Open Enrollment @TNEC

Have you registered for your in-person Refresher? Or 40-Hour Hybrid HAZWOPER at TNEC’s facility at UMass Lowell? We’re open.

TNEC is offering our popular 40-Hour HAZWOPER and 8-Hour Refresher courses. The 40-Hour HAZWOPER course will be a hybrid of online and in person training. The 8-Hour Refresher will be IN-PERSON at our training center at UMass Lowell.

TNEC is following all CDC, State and UML health and safety guidelines to ensure the safety of our students and trainers. Our safety plan was developed by our own TNEC Industrial Hygienist.

There is modified seating due to health and safety regulations and registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. [Click here for TNEC open enrollment information.](#)