



Vision for a Clean Energy Future Second-Term Policy Proposal

Governor Raimondo will make Rhode Island the epicenter of North America's offshore wind economy

In her second term, Governor Raimondo will cement Rhode Island's status as the epicenter of North America's 21st century offshore wind economy.

In Europe, Denmark is widely considered the continental leader in offshore wind industrial innovation and development – and their economy and workforce reflect this substantially. Last year, the Danish offshore wind industry supported [nearly 33,000 jobs](#) – about 1 1/4 percent of the roughly [2.7 million jobs overall in that country](#).

While there are important differences between the European approach to offshore wind and ours, Rhode Island will aspire to comparable levels of employment directly or indirectly supported by our offshore wind industry once fully deployed. This will translate into more than **5,000 good jobs attributable to the development of offshore wind in Rhode Island.**¹

This vision for offshore wind leadership will require continued investment in the areas of **infrastructure, manufacturing, workforce development, and offshore wind innovation.**

1. Infrastructure: Through recent bond investments and related leveraging of private capital, Rhode Island is on track to acquire and develop up to 100 new acres of usable port space at Quonset and the Port of Providence with a focus on hosting the staging, component distribution, and other logistical support necessary to foster nation-leading offshore wind development. In her second-term, the Raimondo administration will conduct a large-scale economic feasibility analysis of Rhode Island's capacity to leverage new coastal assets for port capacity on both sides of the bay – and then, along with a team of civil engineers and environmental experts, determine how exactly to bring new, economically useful, and

¹ 1.2%*June 2018 RI employment level of about 537,000 = about 6,500 jobs. See: <https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.ri.htm>



environmentally sound acreage online to supplant the ongoing expansion of Quonset and ProvPort.

- 2. Manufacturing:** Rhode Island has a long, proud history of leading in manufacturing expertise and innovation. Just as we once led the country in jewelry, textiles, and other legacy manufacturing, we will once again lead the way in growing and sustaining the manufacturing industry and workforce so necessary to the successful deployment. In her second term, Governor Raimondo will help Rhode Island’s boat builders, marine businesses and heavy industrial businesses utilize their expertise to manufacture and distribute the vessels and components of new offshore wind developments.
- 3. Workforce Development:** According to the US Department of Labor, wind turbine service technician jobs are the second-fastest growing occupation in the country over the next decade – with these jobs projected to nearly double by 2026, and paying a solid wage of [about \\$54,400 per year](#). In 2018, the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training will launch a new Real Jobs Training Partnership focused on implementing a wind energy technology career pathway system in Rhode Island, in collaboration with secondary and post-secondary educational institutions, the Quonset Development Corporation, and local companies vital to the offshore wind supply chain in Rhode Island.
- 4. Offshore Wind Innovation:** Apart from being the brawn of the American offshore wind industry, Rhode Island will also be the brains. We will aim to attract \$100 million in new R&D investment to Rhode Island over the next four years, working closely with our institutions of higher education, existing offshore wind industry leaders, and the entrepreneurial community in the region and nationally to establish our state as the national hub for offshore wind R&D and tech transfer. Just as Stanford played an indispensable role in the explosion of the Silicon Valley tech economy, so too will the University of Rhode Island play a preeminent role in the nascent offshore wind boom as engineers, geologists, and oceanographers help to bring academic and industry partners together in a Rhode-Island based hub with the overall goal of advancing innovation in offshore wind.