



Fossilfreeri/NaturesTrustRI

# Incentives to Green Up

## Switch to a Green Supplier of Electricity

You can switch from National Grid to clean, renewable sources of energy, by matching your electricity with a supplier of 50% or more renewable power sources. There are different options to make the switch online offered by organizations and companies, with some plans at no additional cost (e.g., [arcadiapower.com](http://arcadiapower.com)). You can find the suppliers online, with one of them advertised by National Grid under the "green-up" option (People's Power & Light; [ripower.org](http://ripower.org)).

## Incentives for Residential Solar Power

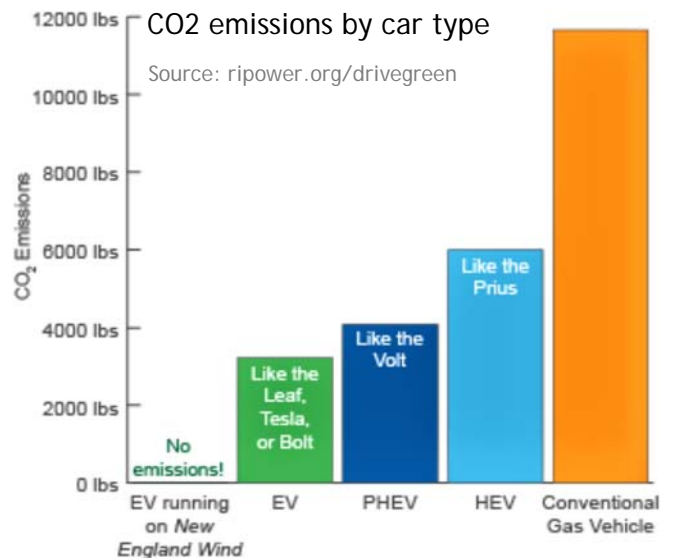
If your house has sufficient sun exposure, you can invest in photovoltaic panels. It is more affordable than you may think. Between the 30% federal tax credit received for the initial investment and the RI state incentives (<http://www.energy.ri.gov/renewable>), solar energy will save you thousands of dollars after 6-7 years return in investment. The cost of installation is cheaper than purchasing an average new car after the federal tax credit, with the advantage of receiving long term capital gain instead of depreciation. There are many solar companies that offer free on-site estimates on Photovoltaic, with financing options at low interest rates.



## Drive an Electric Vehicle (EV)

You can get between 3,500 and 7,500 dollars back from uncle Sam with the purchase of a new electric or hybrid-electric car. Federal tax credits information is at [fueleconomy.gov/feg/taxevb.shtml](http://fueleconomy.gov/feg/taxevb.shtml). You can also get state rebates of up to 2,000 dollars ([drive.ri.gov](http://drive.ri.gov)) if purchasing a vehicle in RI, and another 1,500 dollars discount if purchasing through People's Power Light ([www.ripower.org/drivegreen](http://www.ripower.org/drivegreen)). There are several models and brands of electrical cars in the market at competitive and affordable prices. It is also cheaper to drive one mile in an electric vehicle than one mile powered by gasoline. In addition, electric motors and batteries require less service, are easier and cheaper to maintain than internal combustion engines. In terms of carbon footprint, you can reduce your emissions by about 65% with an all-electric or battery-electric car compared to a standard gasoline car. You can even achieve zero emissions by switching your residential electric supplier to a green supplier of 100% renewable power sources.

## Representative emissions for MA & RI



# Reducing carbon footprint



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## Divest Capital from Fossil Fuel Industry

Invest your savings in mutual funds that have holdings outside the fossil fuel industry. A useful guide to fossil fuel free mutual funds is provided by [divestment-guide.org](http://divestment-guide.org)

## Advocate for Climate Recovery Policies

Learn about the current energy bills, e.g., the Energize RI Act ([S 108](#)) and the Renewable Energy Growth Program ([H 5274](#)). Participate in the hearings of specific bills in the RI General Assembly. You can learn of the bill status at [status.rilin.state.ri.us](http://status.rilin.state.ri.us), and track specific bills to receive e-mail alerts of upcoming hearings ([rilegislature.gov/billtracker](http://rilegislature.gov/billtracker)).

## Reduce your Carbon Footprint

Some steps you can do to reduce part of the total greenhouse gas emissions are:

- Eat less meat vs. more local fruit & veggies,
- Get a fuel-efficient car (or a zero-emission electric car),
- Turn off car engine when stationary,
- Turn off lights, plant trees, etc. (learn more at [carbonfund.org](http://carbonfund.org))
- Make your house more energy efficient using the free home energy audit offered through National Grid ([nationalgridus.com/RI-Home/Energy-Saving-Programs](http://nationalgridus.com/RI-Home/Energy-Saving-Programs))

*“Never has a single generation held the future of so many coming generations, species and ecosystems in its hands.”*

*(International Cryosphere Initiative, 2015)*

Support Nature's Trust RI mission.

Join our mailing list at

[fossilfreeri.org/NaturesTrustRI](http://fossilfreeri.org/NaturesTrustRI)

Or email us at:

[NaturesTrustRI@pobox.com](mailto:NaturesTrustRI@pobox.com)

## Legal Action

Nature's Trust RI is building a legal petition for an effective carbon emission reduction target based on current science. We will take into consideration the petition submitted by Kim Twist in 2011 to the RI DEM, and the Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014, which urgently needs to be brought in sync with the latest science on greenhouse emissions from production to combustion.

