



AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND

REPOWER

AUDUBON

Campaign to Invest in Our **Clean Energy** Future

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**B**irds face two existential threats – habitat loss and climate change. Audubon has protected thousands of acres for birds. Now we must up our game on climate.



We'll reach net zero in 2030 by eliminating our on-site use of gas and oil and installing solar panels. We will run 24 hours a day all year long on emission-free power by 2040.

- **Stephen Porder, PhD**

Audubon Board Member and Brown University  
Associate Provost for Sustainability

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## THE VISION

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# Climate Change is a Serious Threat to Our Birds, Our State, Our World.

Over one-third of all birds breeding on our refuges are experiencing long-term decline and are at high risk of losing their homes and food sources due to climate change. Science highlights the problem, and Audubon is working on the solutions.

To avoid catastrophic climate change, everyone must rapidly reduce the amount of planet-warming emissions they produce. The best way to do that is to electrify everything, and get our electricity from fossil fuel-free sources.

### Climate action can't wait, and we want to move fast.

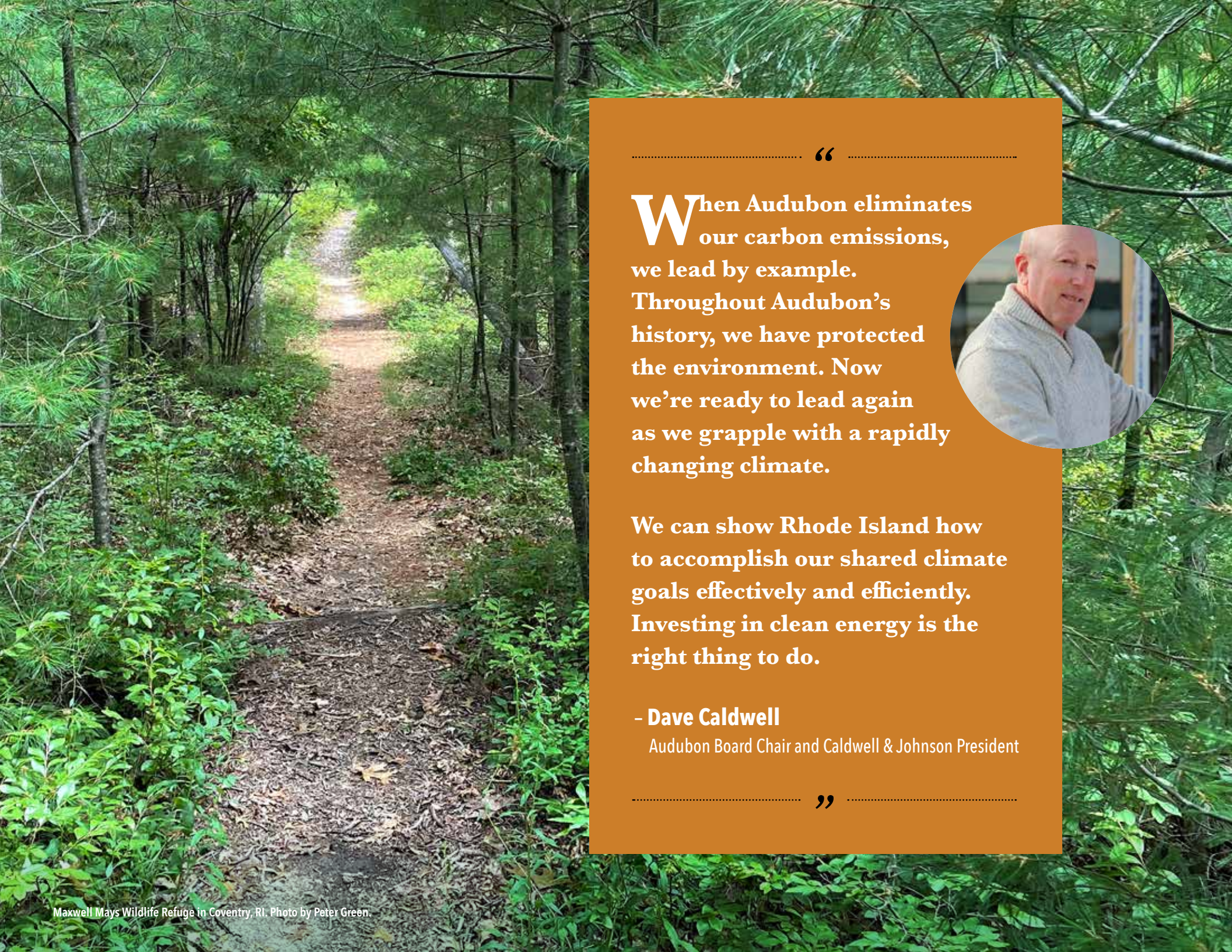
By 2030 Audubon will electrify its buildings, vehicles, and grounds equipment, and add enough solar panels at our facilities to produce the same amount of electricity as we consume. This will get us to "net-zero".

By 2040 we will move further, running 24/7/365 off clean electricity. We're calling this "true-zero," - the goal we must all reach if we are to halt, and reverse, global warming.



### Audubon Society of Rhode Island has a big, bold plan.

- Save energy with building upgrades at all our properties.
- Stop using fossil fuels and transition to electric power.
- Start generating solar energy to light and heat our facilities.
- Store clean energy on-site to achieve true-zero 100% clean energy use.



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**W**hen Audubon eliminates our carbon emissions, we lead by example. Throughout Audubon’s history, we have protected the environment. Now we’re ready to lead again as we grapple with a rapidly changing climate.



We can show Rhode Island how to accomplish our shared climate goals effectively and efficiently. Investing in clean energy is the right thing to do.

**- Dave Caldwell**

Audubon Board Chair and Caldwell & Johnson President

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## THE OPPORTUNITY

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# Going net-zero, then true-zero, has many benefits.

- **For the Organization:** This investment will support Audubon's mission and allow us to lead with integrity. We've worked for over 127 years to protect birds and the habitats they need to survive. Today, that protection includes climate action. Another benefit: saving Audubon over \$100,000 each year in energy costs.
- **For People and Nature:** When Audubon achieves net-zero, then true-zero, our actions will help to improve water quality and reduce air pollution in Rhode Island. This energy plan will also support bird and wildlife conservation by protecting critical natural habitat from climate impacts.
- **For Our Communities:** When we help reduce the number and intensity of storms, floods, and drought, we make Rhode Island safer. As part of the project, we'll educate the public about clean energy and help local nonprofits, partners, and businesses that also want to go net-zero.
- **For the Planet:** National and international climate goals call for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and reaching net-zero by 2050. If that's our global deadline, we must gather the resources to focus on the problem and move substantially faster. At Audubon, we know environmental leadership means acting quickly, and helping others move faster as well. We simply cannot wait.





**Tommy Quinn**, a 19-year-old college student from Bristol, discovered nature on Audubon properties as a child. He now works as a camp counselor at the Nature Center and Aquarium. Quinn plans to give to the RePower Audubon campaign – and asks that you do, too.

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**Think back and remember what Rhode Island was like when you were growing up. Remember what the forest smelled like, how clean the water was, all the animals and plants you could see and enjoy.**

**Help us preserve the environment for your kids or your grandkids. What we do now makes a difference for the future.**

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# To RePower Audubon, we need to:

- 1. Update plumbing, electrical, and heating systems** that will make Audubon facilities more energy efficient and save thousands of dollars a year. [Completion: 2027](#)
- 2. Install heat pumps that run on electricity**, rather than natural gas, propane, or oil, and to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. [Completion: 2028](#)
- 3. Generate the amount of energy used by the organization** by adding ground and roof-mounted solar arrays and two parking lot solar canopies. [Completion: 2029](#)
- 4. Spread the word about the benefits of clean energy** to Audubon members, visitors, and the public through signage, education programs, and focused workshops for nonprofit and small business leaders interested in going net-zero. [Completion: 2040](#)
- 5. Invest in battery storage** after 2030 to use only our own generated power and meet the goal of true-zero emissions by 2040. [Completion: 2040](#)
- 6. Raise \$4.25 million.** By reaching our 2040 goal, we will do everything we can to speed Rhode Island's transition to total emissions-free electricity, and build out our own capacity to achieve this goal on-site as needed. [Completion: Now!](#)



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**C**limate change affects people across Rhode Island, and it disproportionately impacts communities of color with an uptick in asthma rates and extreme weather events. Audubon’s commitment to achieve net-zero here shows that this urgent transition is doable, while providing a resilience and educational asset to communities.



**- Priscilla De La Cruz**

Director of Sustainability for the City of Providence

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# Delivering big environmental wins:

**The RePower Audubon campaign is an investment in our future, creating sustainable infrastructure that delivers a meaningful impact:**

- Heat pumps run on electricity, rather than natural gas, propane, or oil, and can reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 36–64% a year.
- Engineers estimate that installing solar panels on our properties can generate over 500,000 kilowatt hours of energy each year – enough to meet our power needs.
- Updating and replacing plumbing, electrical and heating systems, as well as trucks, grounds equipment and lawn mowers will make Audubon more energy efficient, dramatically reduce emissions, and will save the organization tens of thousands of dollars a year.

RePower Audubon will not only wean our organization off fossil fuels, it will allow us to invest the savings from renewable energy to RePower our mission to protect nature for all people.



# Addition of Photovoltaic Systems

On-site solar panels will produce Audubon's energy needs; the colored areas below represent the additional increased number of panels needed to meet the virtual energy demand of the entire organization.



PV Systems for Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol, RI



PV Systems for Audubon Headquarters in Smithfield, RI



Solar arrays that will bring Powder Mill Ledges and the Nature Center and Aquarium buildings to net-zero energy use.



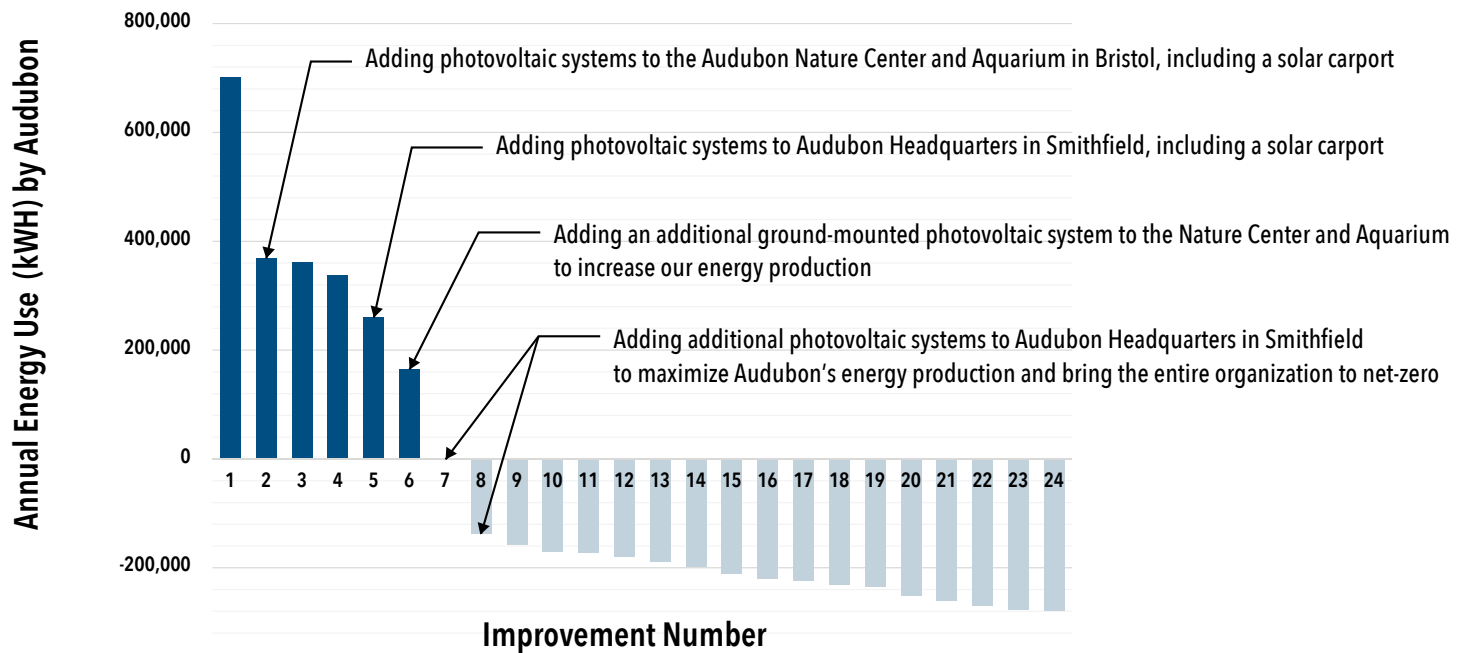
Additional solar arrays that will generate the electricity that other Audubon buildings will use through virtual net-metering.



These solar arrays allow Audubon to add renewable energy to the regional electric grid, creating more green energy for Rhode Island.

# Improvements to Portfolio Energy Usage

In 2023, Audubon undertook a full energy audit with Consulting Energy Services, Inc. (CES). The engineers from this firm evaluated all of Audubon's buildings. Looking to prioritize energy use and system efficiency, the firm developed the most efficient and cost-effective plan to bring Audubon to net-zero. The graph below highlights the major improvements needed to reach this goal.



The numbers in the graph above relate to additional changes to heating and cooling equipment, improving the exterior walls, foundations, roof, windows, and doors of each building to reduce energy and heat loss, and maximizing energy savings by replacing appliances with highly efficient units.

## THE COMMITMENT

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# Building climate resilience requires action from all of us. Let's RePower Audubon Together.

**Audubon is raising \$4.25 million to electrify all of our buildings and properties** and make substantial investments in solar power. With this initiative, Audubon will be one of the first nonprofits in Rhode Island to go net-zero and become a leader in climate resilience.

Your support – a gift, grant, corporate sponsorship, or bequest – is critically important to helping us reach our sustainability goals. Equally important, your support allows Audubon to better align our operations with our long-standing mission of protecting Rhode Island's natural resources.

For more ways to help, please contact Jen Cleland at 401-949-5454 ext. 3018.



**Help us invest in a clean energy future today.**

Find out how you can help:  
[www.asri.org/repower](http://www.asri.org/repower)



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