

Services & Facilities

Draft Background Narrative

Introduction

Municipal facilities and services in Bristol support the day-to-day functioning of local government, public safety, infrastructure systems, and community services that are essential to public health and quality of life. These include public buildings and roads, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, solid waste management, all of which require ongoing maintenance, coordination, and capital investment.

This element documents existing conditions, evaluates the adequacy of facilities and services, and identifies future needs to support the community over the twenty-year planning horizon. As a largely built-out coastal community, Bristol's focus is on maintaining and upgrading existing public services and facilities, addressing aging infrastructure, and incorporating resilience to flooding and sea level rise.

Progress Since the 2016 Comprehensive Plan

Since adoption of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, the Town has implemented several actions identified in the Facilities and Services implementation program. Completed actions include improvements to municipal facilities, drainage infrastructure, and municipal energy efficiency initiatives.

Completed actions include:

- Implementation of drainage improvements at the High School parking lot and Guiteras School parking lot to address stormwater runoff and water quality concerns
- Completion of drainage improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Implementation of improvements associated with Phase 2 of the Tanyard Brook and State Street Reservoir project, including successfully securing federal and state grant funding to supplement Town bond financing and support project implementation
- Completion of an energy audit of municipal buildings to identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency and reduce long-term operating costs
- Implementation of LED streetlight upgrades to improve energy efficiency and reduce municipal energy use
- Adoption of zoning amendments establishing a Public Safety Facilities zoning designation
- Adoption of a resolution designating Bristol as a Property Assessed Clean Energy Municipality
- Adoption of zoning amendments to include a new Public Zone to allow a mix of uses (but not residential) in decommissioned school buildings on High Street (Walley and Byfield on Town Common and Reynolds on High Street), and moving forward with planning for reuse of the former Walley School

These completed actions demonstrate progress toward improving municipal infrastructure, addressing stormwater management issues, and increasing energy efficiency in municipal operations.

Municipal Facilities

Bristol provides municipal services through a number of public buildings and facilities that support the operation of local government, public safety, and community services. These facilities include Town administrative offices, public safety buildings, public works facilities, and other municipal service locations.

The Town continues to evaluate opportunities to improve the efficiency and functionality of municipal facilities. Planning efforts have included evaluation of the reuse of the former Guiteras School as a consolidated municipal government center. The concept would relocate several municipal departments currently located in multiple buildings into one facility, improving operational efficiency and long-term space planning for municipal services.

This transition will also require planning for the reuse, redevelopment, or disposition of existing Town office buildings, including potential sale or conversion to housing or other private uses.

Several specific facility needs have been identified:

- The Department of Public Works is in need of a new salt storage shed. The existing structure is failing and is located near the flood zone of the Tanyard Brook
- The DPW mechanic's garage is at the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced for safe and efficient repairs to the Town's vehicles
- The Everready Fire Station is particularly susceptible to sea level rise and is located within the flood zone; the Town should consider relocating this facility
- The Benjamin Church Senior Center has identified needs related to space limitations, accessibility, and ability to serve the community

Maintaining and upgrading municipal buildings remains an ongoing priority to ensure that facilities remain functional, accessible, and capable of supporting the services provided by the Town.

Public Input

Public engagement conducted as part of the Comprehensive Plan update identified several priorities related to public facilities and municipal services. Residents noted concerns regarding aging infrastructure, including stormwater systems, roadways, and certain public facilities. Roadway conditions and drainage issues were frequently cited, particularly in areas experiencing flooding or infrastructure limitations.

Participants also expressed interest in developing a coordinated Townwide facilities plan to help guide future capital investments and ensure that municipal facilities continue to support community needs. Public feedback emphasized the importance of maintaining strong public safety and public works services while making targeted improvements to infrastructure systems and municipal facilities.

Residents also expressed interest in expanding community spaces and amenities within public facilities. Ideas included additional meeting spaces, performing arts and cultural programming, and the use of public buildings for community events and activities. Recreation opportunities for youth and families were also identified as an area for potential expansion.

Public feedback also highlighted interest in improvements to municipal services such as recycling education, composting programs, and broadband access. Participants emphasized the importance of maintaining existing infrastructure while continuing to modernize public facilities and services to support the needs of Bristol residents.

Public Facilities and Infrastructure Mapping

The following maps provide an overview of the Town’s public facilities and infrastructure systems and support planning, maintenance, and capital investment decisions. Select maps are accompanied by tables identifying specific facilities or system components.

Map SF-1 – Public Facilities

Map SF-1 shows the location of municipal facilities, including public safety, administrative, educational, and community facilities. Facilities are generally concentrated in the downtown and waterfront areas, with additional sites distributed throughout residential neighborhoods. The accompanying table provides a listing of labeled facilities.

Label	Facility Name
1	Rockwell School
2	Mt. Hope High School
3	Colt Andrews School
4	Benjamin Church Senior Center
5	Senior Services and Community Resources Center
6	Defiance Hose Co.
7	Hydraulion Engine Co. #1, Fire Dept. Headquarters and EMA
8	Ever-Ready Engine Co.
9	Dreadnaught Ladder Co.

Map SF-2 – Water Supply System

Map SF-2 illustrates the public water system, including water mains, hydrants, and water towers within the Bristol County Water Authority service area.

Map SF-3 – Sewer System

Map SF-3 depicts sewered areas, sewer lines, and pump stations serving the Town’s developed areas. The accompanying table identifies pump station locations.

Label	Sewer Pump Station Location Description
1	South end of Clubhouse Lane near North Farm Yacht Club
2	South of Clubhouse Lane, east of East Bay Bike Path, west of Seabreeze Lane
3	North of Patricia Ann Drive, east of East Bay Bike Path, west of Seabreeze Lane
4	North of Tupelo Street, near 17 Tupelo
5	South of Tupelo Street, near 86 Tupelo
6	North of Brooks Farm Drive, near 23 Brooks Farm Driver
7	North of Broadcommon Road, east of 97 Broadcommon Road
8	South of Kickemuit Ave and Wilcox St. intersection, near 2 Harrison Street
9	South of Peter Road, near 12 Peter Road
10	North cul-de-sac of Leila Jean Drive, near 20 Leila Jean Drive
11	South of the east-most end of Annawamscutt Drive, near 2 King Philip Ave
12	Colt State Park; southwest of the Chapel by the Sea, east of Colt Drive.
13	Colt State Park; east of 1 Colt Drive
14	Colt State Park; near pavillions in northeast section of the park.
15	South of Poppasquash Road, near 1 Poppasquash Road
16	West of Monroe Ave and Creek Lane intersection; in Veterans Park
17	West of 7 Kennedy Ct; south of Almeida Flats apartments.
18	South end of Thames Street; east of 1 Thames Street
19	South of Burke Road, near 8 Burke Road
20	Southeast of 3 Sequoia Ct
21	North of Plant Ave, near 2 Plant Ave.
22	West of Ferry Road and Fairview Drive intersection; west of 155 Ferry Road
23	RWU; near North Campus Office Building (Roger Williams Lane #0)
24	RWU; south of US Sailing Center (1 Roger Williams Univ Way) in athletic fields
25	RWU; east of Bayside Courts
26	RWU; south of Maple Hall
27	RWU; south of Cedar Hall
28	RWU: south of Willow Hall

Map SF-4 – Stormwater System

Map SF-4 shows stormwater infrastructure, including pipes, outfalls, and culverts, and highlights key drainage features such as the Tanyard Brook system.

Wastewater Infrastructure

Wastewater collection and treatment services are provided through the Town’s wastewater system and Wastewater Treatment Facility. The system serves most developed areas of the community and plays an important role in protecting water quality in Mount Hope Bay and the broader Narragansett Bay watershed.

Because Bristol is largely built out, infrastructure planning is focused primarily on maintaining and improving existing systems rather than expanding service areas. Continued investment in wastewater infrastructure is necessary to ensure reliable service, meet regulatory requirements, and protect environmental resources.

The Town continues to pursue improvements to wastewater infrastructure and the Wastewater Treatment Facility through maintenance projects, system upgrades, and long-term capital planning.

Stormwater Management and Water Quality

Stormwater management is an important municipal service in Bristol due to the Town's coastal location, historic development patterns, and aging drainage infrastructure. Effective stormwater management helps protect water quality, reduce localized flooding, and support the health of Mount Hope Bay and Narragansett Bay.

Stormwater runoff contributes to water quality impairments in several local water bodies, including Bristol Harbor, the Kickemuit River, and Mount Hope Bay. These water bodies are subject to Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements, which establish limits on pollutants such as bacteria and nutrients and require municipalities to implement measures to reduce pollutant loading from stormwater runoff.

Bristol is regulated as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) community under the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES). As part of this program, the Town is required to implement a comprehensive stormwater management program that includes:

- Public education and outreach
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Construction and post-construction stormwater management
- Pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices
- Water quality monitoring and reporting

The Town has undertaken a range of stormwater and water quality initiatives in response to these requirements. Efforts include drainage improvements in areas experiencing runoff and infrastructure limitations, public education programs, shoreline cleanups, and storm drain marking. The Town has also participated in water quality monitoring efforts in Bristol Harbor, Silver Creek, and the Kickemuit River, often in partnership with organizations such as Save the Bay, Roger Williams University, and the Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District.

A significant focus of recent stormwater planning and investment has been the Tanyard Brook watershed, which is a key drainage system in Bristol and a contributor to downstream flooding and water quality impacts. The Town has completed improvements associated with Phase 2 of the Tanyard Brook and State Street Reservoir project, including drainage upgrades and system improvements designed to increase capacity, reduce flooding, and improve water quality. These efforts were supported through a combination of Town funding and federal and state grants.

In addition to completed projects, the Town has secured funding through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to support the design and engineering of additional wastewater and stormwater infrastructure improvements. These projects include evaluation of system deficiencies, upgrades to aging infrastructure, and improvements to outfalls and drainage systems, including areas such as the Ferry Road corridor.

The Town continues to evaluate opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure and low impact development (LID) techniques, such as rain gardens, infiltration practices, and reduction of impervious surfaces, to improve stormwater management and water quality outcomes. These approaches are particularly important in a largely built-out community where traditional infrastructure expansion is limited.

Future Needs

- Continued investment in the Tanyard Brook watershed and other priority drainage areas to reduce flooding and improve water quality
- Upgrading aging stormwater infrastructure, including pipes, culverts, and outfalls
- Reducing impervious surfaces and increasing use of green infrastructure and LID techniques
- Meeting MS4 permit requirements and advancing compliance with TMDL pollutant reduction targets
- Establishing sustainable funding mechanisms, such as a stormwater management district or utility
- Incorporating climate resilience into stormwater system design, including addressing sea level rise and increased storm intensity

Solid Waste Management

The Bristol Department of Public Works (111 Mount Hope Avenue) is responsible for curbside trash and recycling collection for Town residents. Trash pickup occurs Monday through Friday according to neighborhood routes using Town-owned automated trucks. The Town enforces a “no bin, no barrel” policy, which requires that a recycling bin be placed out with the trash for collection, reinforcing participation in the recycling program.

Solid waste services for Bristol residents are provided through a combination of municipal collection programs and regional disposal facilities. Trash collected within the Town is transported to the transfer station located at 6 Minturn Farm Road, where it is processed before being transported to the Central Landfill in Johnston. The transfer station also supports recycling and composting operations and plays an important role in reducing the volume of material ultimately disposed of at the landfill.

The Town has implemented a range of programs to support waste diversion and reduce disposal volumes. These include quarterly e-waste collection events, special pick-up services for large items and materials requiring additional handling, and composting opportunities available at the transfer station. Bristol has also supported pilot and voluntary options for food waste diversion and composting, reflecting increasing interest in reducing organic waste. Recent planning efforts have included exploration of strategies to further reduce organic waste and expand composting and other diversion initiatives consistent with statewide waste management goals.

As of 2024, Bristol’s solid waste performance exceeds statewide averages but has not yet met state-mandated targets:

- **Bristol MRF Recycling Rate (2024): 25.6%**
- **Bristol Rate of Overall Material Diversion from Landfill (2024): 33.2%**

For comparison:

- **State MRF Recycling Rate: 17.2%**
- **State Overall Diversion Rate: 29.5%**

State law requires municipalities to achieve a minimum 35% recycling rate and 50% overall diversion rate. While Bristol performs above the state average, additional progress is needed to meet these benchmarks.

Long-term solid waste planning is also influenced by regional capacity constraints. The Central Landfill is projected to reach capacity around 2046, underscoring the importance of reducing disposal volumes, increasing diversion, and planning for future waste management strategies.

The Town continues to evaluate opportunities to improve solid waste management programs, increase recycling participation, expand composting, and reduce the volume of material entering the regional waste stream. Additional strategies under consideration include adoption of a deconstruction and material reuse ordinance for certain demolition projects, consistent with state planning recommendations, to promote salvage and recycling of building materials and reduce construction and demolition (C&D) waste.

Continued refinement of solid waste programs, policies, and infrastructure will help improve operational efficiency, reduce long-term disposal costs, and support environmental sustainability.

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Public safety services in Bristol are provided through the Town's police, fire, and emergency response departments. These services rely on specialized facilities, personnel, and equipment to provide timely emergency response, fire protection, and public safety services to the community. Maintaining functional, well-located, and adequately equipped public safety facilities is essential to supporting modern emergency response operations, including space needs for personnel, equipment storage, and training functions.

The Bristol Police Department (395 Metacom Avenue) is centrally located within the community, east of downtown. The Department is nationally and state accredited and includes approximately 40 sworn law enforcement personnel. Services include a special operations unit, mobile command center, detectives, as well as marine, patrol, drone, and bike units. In 2025, the Police Department responded to over 35,000 service calls. The Department is well staffed, funded, and equipped to respond to a wide range of public safety needs, and its efforts have contributed to Bristol consistently being recognized as one of the safest communities in Rhode Island.

The Bristol Fire Department operates out of four stations distributed throughout the community:

- Defiance Hose Company No. 1 (1124 Hope Street)
- Hydraulion Engine & Hose Company No. 1 (4 Annawamscutt Drive)
- Ever-Ready Engine & Hose Company No. 2 (189 Thames Street)
- Dreadnaught Hook, Ladder & Hose Company No. 1 (72 Church Street)

The Fire Department is primarily volunteer-based, with five full-time staff positions. The Ever-Ready Fire Station is located within the flood zone and is particularly vulnerable to sea level rise.

There are no hospitals located within Bristol. The nearest major medical facilities include Rhode Island Hospital in Providence and Newport Hospital in Newport. Within Bristol, the Bristol Medical Center (1180 Hope Street), operated by Medical Associates of Rhode Island, provides walk-in and routine medical care to residents.

Future Needs

Maintaining effective public safety services will require continued investment in facilities, equipment, and infrastructure to meet evolving service demands and environmental conditions.

A key priority is addressing the vulnerability of the Ever-Ready Fire Station, which is located within the flood zone and at risk from sea level rise. The Town should evaluate options for relocation, elevation, or other resiliency measures to ensure continued emergency response capability.

The Bristol Police Department may require future expansion or reconfiguration of its existing facility to accommodate operational needs, including space for personnel, equipment, and specialized units.

More broadly, the Town should continue to assess public safety facilities to ensure they are adequately sized, appropriately located, and resilient to climate impacts, while supporting efficient and coordinated emergency response services.

Public Education

Existing Conditions

The Bristol Warren Regional School District (BWRSD) is a public PK–12 school system serving the Town of Bristol. The District consists of five school buildings, three of which are located in Bristol:

- Colt Andrews School – Grades K–5 (570 Hope Street, Bristol)
- Mt. Hope High School – Grades 9–12 (199 Chestnut Street, Bristol)
- Rockwell School – Grades K–5 (1225 Hope Street, Bristol)

Additional educational facilities include a private Pre-K through Grade 8 school located at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church (127 State Street) and Little Friends Preschool located in the downtown area (300 High Street).

The School District had a total enrollment of 2,621 students for the 2025–2026 school year, which represents a 21.2% decrease from enrollment a decade earlier (3,328 students in the 2015–2016 school year). Drops in enrollment, coupled with facility maintenance issues, led the School District to close the Guiteras Elementary School at the end of the 2024–2025 school year.

Table SF2: Bristol Warren Regional School District Enrollment: October 2024

School	Total	PK	PF	KF	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bristol Warren District	2621	57	0	166	174	182	210	205	169	202	217	222	200	203	190	224
Colt Andrews School	409	0	0	59	57	70	79	79	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockwell School	255	0	0	42	39	40	48	47	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Hope High School	788	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	197	199	185	207
Kickemuit Middle School	629	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	211	218	0	0	0	0
Hugh Cole School	491	57	0	65	78	72	81	75	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bristol Warren Public Schools	49	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	2	2	6	4	3	4	5	17

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education

Capital Improvements

A major capital improvement project is currently underway for BWRSD facilities. The passage of the Statewide School Construction Bond in 2018 enables communities to access capital funds, reimbursement, and bonds from the Rhode Island Department of Education.

In 2023, Bristol and Warren voters approved \$200 million in bonds for the BWRSD to update existing school buildings and replace Mt. Hope High School. Through the Statewide School Construction Bond, the State is providing 63% of the budget for the capital plan, with an additional 20% reimbursement potential at the completion of the project.

Extensive community input has been solicited for the construction plans through input sessions held at schools within the district and informational tables at community events in Bristol and Warren. The capital improvement project goals are to improve health and safety in school buildings while enhancing educational opportunities.

Construction began in Summer 2025 and is anticipated to be completed by May 2027, with courses being held in the new high school beginning in Fall 2027.

The following facility improvements are underway or planned for the three school buildings in Bristol:

- Colt Andrews School – installation of a new membrane roof, electrical and wiring upgrades, construction of two new bathrooms, improved HVAC system, and installation of various safety systems
- Mt. Hope High School – construction of a new two-story high school including a gym, auditorium, career technical education shops, cafeteria, and a media center/library; new site facilities include an athletic turf field, softball field, tennis courts, lighting, new parking areas, and stormwater/drainage improvements
- Rockwell School – exterior façade work, plumbing upgrades, HVAC upgrades, stormwater infrastructure installation, and assorted flooring and ceiling work

These improvements are intended to ensure that the physical facilities in the BWRSD are able to function effectively and support educational programming over the 20-year planning horizon.

The New England School Development Council prepared an enrollment projections report for the BWRSD through the 2032–2033 school year. Enrollment is projected to increase slightly for younger

grade levels, with 26 additional students in grades K–5. Enrollment for older students is projected to decrease, with 12 fewer students in grades 6–8 and 125 fewer students in grades 9–12. This projected decline in high school enrollment is consistent with the Town’s overall modest population decline.

Year	PK - 5th	K - 5th	6th - 8th	9th - 12th
2026-27	1251	1187	580	796
2027-28	1255	1190	560	778
2028-29	1250	1184	560	753
2029-30	1271	1204	546	731
2030-31	1301	1233	526	704
2031-32	1296	1227	534	692
2032-33	1283	1213	568	671

Source: NESDEC

Public Library Services

Existing Conditions

Rogers Free Library (525 Hope Street) serves as the public library for Bristol and is a key civic and community facility within the downtown. The library consists of an 1877 historic brownstone building and a 2008 addition, which expanded capacity and improved accessibility, including compliance with ADA standards. The facility currently includes just over 28,000 square feet across three stories.

The library employs 31 staff members and is supported by a seven-member Board of Trustees appointed by the community, as well as the Friends of Rogers Free Library, a 501(c)(3) organization.

In addition to traditional library services, including book lending and literacy programming, the library provides a range of resources and services that reflect evolving community needs. These include public access computers, printers, and high-speed internet, which are increasingly important for residents engaged in remote work and online services. The library also offers technology assistance, meeting rooms for community use, and access to extensive historical materials and records.

Rogers Free Library hosts programming for all age groups, including children, teens, and adults. Programs include educational activities, social events, and opportunities for community engagement, including programs designed to connect new residents with the broader community. Through these services, the library functions as both an educational resource and an important community gathering space.

Future Needs

The Town is leveraging grant funding to support targeted capital improvements to Rogers Free Library to ensure that the facility continues to meet community needs over the planning horizon. A \$1.75 million grant from the United States Treasury’s Community Facilities Grant program, distributed by the Rhode Island Pandemic Recovery Office, is funding a series of upgrades to the facility.

Beginning in 2024, community input was collected through surveys and public engagement to guide the use of these funds. Planned improvements include the creation of a maker space, development of a “Library of Things,” upgrades to meeting rooms, and improvements to storage and overall space efficiency within the building.

These improvements align with the library’s strategic plan through FY 2029, which emphasizes financial sustainability, expanded community programming, and continued development of the library as a flexible space that supports both individual and community needs. The library will continue to serve as an important community partner and a central location for education, engagement, and access to resources.

Community and Senior Centers

The Quinta-Gamelin Community Center (101 Asylum Road) is located in the former Quinta-Gamelin Army Reserve Building, which became available for reuse following the 2005 base closure. The Town assumed ownership of the property in 2008. The Community Center is overseen by Bristol’s Parks and Recreation Department and serves as a hub for a wide range of recreational and community activities. Its location adjacent to the Town Beach and athletic facilities allows for integration with other recreational services and programs.

The Benjamin Church Senior Center (1020 Hope Street) provides services for Bristol residents ages 50 and older. These services include a daily lunch program, transportation to medical appointments and food stores, volunteer opportunities, and social and recreational programming. The Senior Center has operated out of the historic Benjamin Church House since 1972 and is located north of downtown adjacent to the Bristol Housing Authority, with which it partners to provide services. Funding is provided through a combination of municipal support, state grants, and non-profit contributions.

The Bristol Health Equity Zone (HEZ) is a place-based collaborative established in 2015 to reduce health disparities and address social determinants of health. The HEZ is funded by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), with additional support from its backbone agency, East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP). The HEZ partners with local organizations to collect data, engage residents, and coordinate services that support community health. In Bristol, HEZ initiatives focus on food security, physical activity, substance use, and mental health and suicide prevention. Programming has included meal distribution and cooking demonstrations in partnership with the East Bay Food Pantry, adoption of an ordinance prohibiting smoking in Town parks, and collaboration with the Bristol Police Department to establish a recovery support and treatment referral station.

Future Needs

The Quinta-Gamelin Community Center is well integrated with the Town’s recreational system and continues to be supported through Parks and Recreation programming. The Bristol Health Equity Zone is expected to continue operating with support from RIDOH and local partners, with ongoing opportunities to strengthen coordination, data tracking, and measurable outcomes.

The Benjamin Church Senior Center faces several ongoing challenges related to space, accessibility, and service capacity. A 2019 needs assessment, funded through a Rhode Island Foundation Organizational Development grant and supplemented by an independent survey, identified several key concerns. These included the need for increased funding to sustain and expand senior services, improved transportation

options such as additional or larger vehicles, and increased space to accommodate demand for programming and meals. The study also identified limitations associated with operating in a historic structure, including accessibility and usability challenges for residents with limited mobility.

These findings highlight the need for the Town to continue supporting senior services through stable funding, expanded transportation options, and evaluation of facility improvements or alternative locations that can better accommodate current and future needs. Additional consideration may also be given to expanding space for programming and exploring opportunities to better integrate senior services with other community facilities.

The Town should continue to support the long-term viability of senior services and ensure that facilities and programming remain accessible, adequately funded, and responsive to the needs of Bristol's aging population.

Energy Production and Consumption

Improving energy efficiency in municipal operations can reduce long-term operating costs and support environmental sustainability goals. The Town has undertaken efforts to evaluate municipal energy use and identify opportunities for improvement, including completion of an energy audit of municipal buildings and conversion to LED streetlighting. These initiatives have reduced energy consumption and improved operational efficiency. The Town will continue to pursue additional energy efficiency improvements in municipal buildings, infrastructure, and operations as part of ongoing capital planning and facility upgrades.

The Town of Bristol supports the use of renewable energy technologies and reduced dependence on fossil fuels, consistent with Rhode Island's clean energy goals. The Town has made investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy over time, including upgrades to municipal facilities and support for local and regional energy initiatives.

Funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was used to upgrade facilities at several Town-owned buildings, including the Department of Public Works, Police Station, Naval Reserve Armory, and the Benjamin Church Senior Center. These improvements included installation of new windows and other energy efficiency measures to reduce heat loss and improve building performance. The Fire Department headquarters (4 Annawamscutt Drive) has achieved Silver LEED certification.

In addition to municipal investments, institutional and private sector partners have contributed to local energy efficiency efforts. Roger Williams University, located in the southern portion of Town, has developed multiple LEED-certified buildings, including a residence hall and admissions center.

Bristol currently receives electricity from Rhode Island Energy, with generation sources that are still largely dependent on natural gas. The Town is currently exploring development of a Community Electricity Aggregation (CEA) Plan. This program would allow Bristol to aggregate electricity demand across residents and businesses, enabling the Town to secure competitive electricity supply options that may offer lower costs and increased use of renewable energy. Public input on the plan is ongoing, and if

adopted, Bristol would join several Rhode Island municipalities offering expanded renewable energy purchasing options.

At the state level, Rhode Island's renewable energy portfolio is dominated by solar and offshore wind, with smaller contributions from onshore wind, hydroelectric generation, and landfill gas or anaerobic digestion. Bristol has contributed to these efforts through local renewable energy generation.

A major investment in solar energy was completed in Bristol in 2024 with support from the Rhode Island Commerce Renewable Energy Fund. The Town partnered with the Toray Group, based in North Kingstown, to develop a solar installation located on the closed Bristol Landfill. The project consists of 20,692 solar panels and generates approximately 8,700 megawatt-hours annually. After several years of planning and securing an off-taker, the successful completion of this project represents a significant achievement for the Town and supports Rhode Island's goal of achieving 100 percent renewable electricity by 2033.

Future Needs

Bristol can continue to build on recent progress by expanding local renewable energy generation and increasing access to alternative energy supply options. Continued development and potential implementation of a Community Electricity Aggregation program would allow residents and businesses to opt into electricity portfolios with a greater share of renewable energy sources.

Additional opportunities exist to expand renewable energy generation on municipal and private properties. The Town can identify sites suitable for solar or other renewable energy projects and leverage available funding programs, including Rhode Island Energy and the Rhode Island Commerce Renewable Energy Fund.

The Town can also support energy efficiency improvements at the building scale. Given Bristol's large inventory of historic structures, incremental upgrades such as insulation, window improvements, and heating system upgrades represent an important opportunity to reduce energy consumption. Programs offered by Rhode Island Energy, including free home energy assessments and rebate programs available through Clean Heat Rhode Island, provide tools to support these improvements.

Continued investment in energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, and energy supply options will help reduce long-term energy costs, improve environmental sustainability, and support statewide clean energy goals.

Capital Improvement Planning

Long-term planning for municipal infrastructure and facilities is an important component of managing public investments and maintaining reliable services. Capital improvements include major repairs, upgrades, and replacements to municipal buildings, public works facilities, drainage systems, and other infrastructure.

Capital improvement planning allows the Town to identify infrastructure needs in advance, prioritize projects, and coordinate funding for necessary upgrades and maintenance. Continued coordination

between municipal departments, the Town Council, and other agencies will help ensure that infrastructure investments are planned in a strategic and fiscally responsible manner while maintaining the services that support the community.

Definitions

MRF Recycling Rate: This is our simplest measure of recycling, which divides the total tons of mixed recyclables (materials placed in your bin/cart at home) sent to Resource Recovery's Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) by the total of these tons plus the tons of trash delivered to Resource Recovery for landfilling. Resource Recovery automatically collects both of these numbers when your city or town's trucks cross our scales.

Rate of Overall Material Diversion from Landfill: This measure expands on the previous one even more, by adding in all other materials that are diverted from the landfill for reuse or recycling such as books, bulky rigid plastics, cooking oil, electronic waste, food scraps, (recyclable) mattresses, motor oil & filters, paint, paper shredded at special events and tires. We divide these tons by their total plus the total tons of landfilled trash.