



**EBC Rhode Island & RISEP Leadership Program  
Environmental, Energy and Climate Leadership & Legislative Briefing**

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

RI Department of Environmental Management  
Providence, Rhode Island

**Co-Hosting Organization**



**AGENDA**

8:00 a.m. **Welcome**

- Daniel K. Moon, President and Executive Director  
Environmental Business Council of New England, Inc.

**Program Introduction and Overview – What You Will Learn**

- Christian F. Capizzo, Program Chair & Moderator  
Counsel, Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP

8:15 p.m. **Update from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management**



Janet Coit, Director  
Department of Environmental Management  
State of Rhode Island

8:45 p.m. **Update on Rhode Island's Adaptation and Resiliency Programs**

- Shaun O'Rourke, Chief Resiliency Officer, State of Rhode Island

9:15 a.m. Update from the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources



Carol Grant, Commissioner  
Office of Energy Resources  
State of Rhode Island

9:45 a.m. Networking Break

10:15 a.m. Energy Legislative Initiatives

- Christopher Kearns, Legislative Liaison, Renewable Program, Energy Policy, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources

10:45 a.m. Moderated Discussion

Moderator: Christian Capizzo, Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP

Panel Members:

- Janet Coit, RI DEM
- Carol Grant, RI OER
- Shaun O'Rourke, State of Rhode Island
- Christopher Kearns, RI OER

12:00 p.m. Adjourn

### **PROGRAM CHAIR & MODERATOR**

**Christian F. Capizzo**, Counsel

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Recognized for his ability to unify disparate groups and facilitate change, Christian concentrates his practice in the areas of environmental and energy law, land use, civil litigation, and public sector/governmental services. With over 15 years of experience, Christian is uniquely positioned to navigate clients throughout New England through the complex ever-changing world where environmental regulation and business intersect. His experience includes a diverse range of complex environmental matters including enforcement, regulatory and compliance issues, renewable energy projects, real estate development, environmental remediation including brownfields, construction and contractor claims, coastal permitting and waterfront property rights. He has represented clients before the Coastal Resources Management Council, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission, the Energy Facility Siting Board, the Rhode Island Contractor's Registration and Licensing Board and the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training.

He has represented landowners and project developers in real estate transactions, renewable energy development deals, and financing transactions associated with these projects. He plays an integral role evaluating and mitigating environmental risks relating to development projects and business transactions, as well as providing key strategy on renewable energy projects.

Christian served in the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office where he had a proven track record of successfully litigating high profile criminal and civil cases. He led the Environmental Crimes Task Force, handling litigation on environmental issues impacting Rhode Island. Christian worked closely with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management as outside legal counsel handling enforcement matters, drafting legislation, and negotiating diverse environmental matters. Christian has also worked closely with the U.S. Department of Justice, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Department of Agriculture and various state agencies and attorney generals throughout the United States.

## **SPEAKERS**

**Janet Coit**, Director  
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908  
(401) 222-2771 | [janet.coit@dem.ri.gov](mailto:janet.coit@dem.ri.gov)

Janet Coit is Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), a position she has held since 2011. Coit serves as chair of the State's Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council and the Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Collaborative. Prior to coming to RIDEM, she worked for ten years at The Nature Conservancy as Director of the Rhode Island Chapter. Before that, Coit served as counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works. Coit's background also includes working for three New England Senators and stints at the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice. Coit is dedicated to protecting the quality of the environment and the natural systems critical to the health, safety and well-being of Rhode Islanders as she leads the RIDEM. She serves on the board of the Boy Scouts of America's Narragansett Council. A graduate of Dartmouth College, Coit holds a J.D. from Stanford Law School, where she was president of the Environmental Law Society. She is married with two children.

**Carol Grant**, Commissioner  
Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908  
(401) 574-9113 | [Carol.Grant@energy.ri.gov](mailto:Carol.Grant@energy.ri.gov)

Carol J. Grant currently serves as Commissioner of the Office of Energy Resources for the State of Rhode Island. Previously she was Senior Vice President-External Affairs at First Wind/SunEdison with responsibility for external affairs including public affairs, public relations and communications. Ms. Grant served as Chief of Operations for Mayor David Cicilline in the City of Providence from 2003 to 2007, leading ten departments and two strategic initiatives in the areas of neighborhood services and economic growth. She was previously Vice President of Human Resources for Textron. From 1983 to 1997, Ms. Grant held executive positions in law, external affairs, and operations for NYNEX, including leadership of the entire business in Rhode Island. She also served as the founding Chair of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation during the period that the quasi-public organization was created and the new terminal at T.F. Green Airport was built. Ms. Grant has held a wide variety of

civic leadership roles, including Chair of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce and membership on the Governor's Economic Policy Council and the Board of the Rhode Island Foundation. Ms. Grant received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan, School of Law and a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Missouri. Her honors include the Athena Award, and the New England Council's Women in Leadership Award.

**Christopher Kearns**, Legislative Liaison, Renewable Program, Energy Policy  
Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources  
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Chris Kearns is the Interdepartmental Manager and Legislative Liaison for the Office of Energy Resources (OER) and works on a variety of state energy legislation, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, natural gas and energy security. Prior to working for the OER, Chris was Governor Lincoln Chafee's Policy and Legislative Analyst for transportation, environmental and energy matters. He graduated from the University of Rhode Island, with a Bachelor Degree in Environmental and Economic Management in 2008.

**Shaun O'Rourke**, Chief Resilience Officer  
State of Rhode Island  
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Shaun O'Rourke is Director of Stormwater and Resiliency at Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank and Chief Resilience Officer for the State of Rhode Island. Prior to joining RIIB, Shaun served as the National Green Infrastructure Director at The Trust for Public Land and was Director of Sustainable Design at the Boston Architectural College, where he continues to serve as a member of the faculty. He has also worked at AECOM in New York City on public sector infrastructure projects. Shaun holds a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a B.S from University of Vermont.

#### UPCOMING EBC PROGRAMS

March 6 – Ascending Professionals Program: Health and Safety on Remediation Sites  
March 12 – New Hampshire Energy Program: Non Wire Alternatives  
March 13 – New Hampshire Ascending Professionals: Data Management Program  
March 15 – Climate Change Program: The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program  
March 22 – Ocean & Coastal Resources Program: The Northeast Ocean Data Portal  
March 27 – Evening Program: Annual Review from MassDEP Commissioner Marty Suuberg  
March 29 – Solid Waste Management Program: "Talking Trash" Northern New England  
April 4 – Rhode Island Program: Briefing from State Agency Leadership  
April 9 – Energy Resources Program: States Procurement of Renewables  
April 11 – Ocean and Coastal Resources Program: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Coastal Construction Conference  
April 12 – Dam Management Program: Dam Removal & Sediment Management  
April 24 – Connecticut Update from the U.S. EPA Region 1 Regional Administrator and CT DEEP  
June 4 – Rhode Island Program – RCRA Update  
June 5 – Rhode Island Stormwater Conference – Management & Climate Change  
June 17 – Rhode Island Chapter Program Planning Luncheon