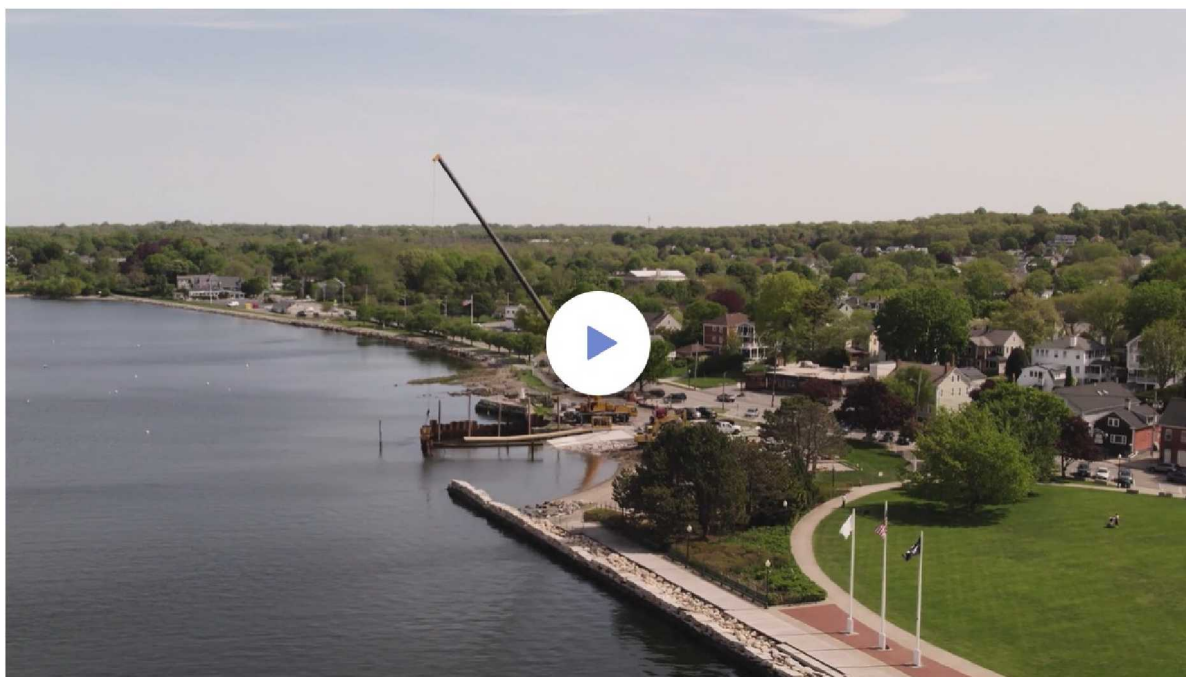


## Celebrating Infrastructure Week & Establishing The Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund

May 12-16 was Infrastructure Week, and a great opportunity to highlight the clean water, drinking water, and resilience projects across Rhode Island that we've helped to facilitate with our low cost financing and grant programs.

To celebrate, we visited the Pawtucket Water Supply Board's treatment plant (see more below), and Bristol's beautiful Independence Park where we joined Treasurer James Diossa, Representative Terri Cortvriend, Representative June Speakman, Representative Susan Donovan, Representative Jennifer Boylan, State Senator Louis DiPalma, and Bristol Town Administrator Steven Contente to urge passage of legislation (H-6252 / S-1070) establishing the Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund. This new fund would create a source of reliable funding for municipalities to invest in resilient infrastructure projects including stormwater improvements, floodproofing, watershed restoration, urban tree planting, and coastal and riparian resiliency.

[Check out our great new video](#) from the event about the benefits of establishing the Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund and read more about our vision for the fund in [our Boston Globe Rhode Island commentary piece](#), and in [this Providence Journal article](#) by environmental reporter Alex Kuffner.



### Infrastructure Week Visit To Pawtucket Water

As part of Infrastructure Week earlier this month, we visited the Pawtucket Water Supply Board's water treatment plant, which supplies safe, clean drinking water to 100,000 people in the City of Pawtucket, the City Of Central Falls, and the Valley Falls section of the Town of Cumberland.

Over the years, Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank has provided the Pawtucket Water Supply Board with \$124 million in financing to maintain and upgrade their drinking water infrastructure that is so critical to the communities, residents, and businesses they serve.



## Arup Selected To Conduct Rhode Island Coastal Resilience Study

In partnership with the Department of Environmental Management, [we have selected Arup to conduct the state's first comprehensive coastal resilience study](#). The study will give us detailed insights into vulnerable municipal infrastructure and options to improve resilience. We look forward to the results, which will complement our successful Municipal Resilience Program that has already provided \$24 million to cities and towns across the state to invest in resilient infrastructure solutions. This is another piece of the puzzle as we work together to build a more Resilient Rhody.





## Infrastructure Bank In The News

[Is a revolving fund the answer to RI's climate funding crunch? Why some officials think so. Providence Journal](#)

*Whether what's been named the Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund continues beyond its initial injection of financing from the bank will depend on the General Assembly.*

*The bank needs legislative approval to leverage its initial investment and issue bonds that could increase the total amount in the fund to up to \$50 million, said William Fazioli, CEO and executive director of the bank.*

*With that amount of money, it would become a revolving fund, similar to what's already in place for drinking water and wastewater – a self-sustaining financing mechanism that would loan money to communities and use what's paid back to support new applications.*

*"Once you get it going, it never stops," Fazioli said. "It's always self-renewing."*

[With climate change our new reality, it's time to invest in a more resilient Rhody, Boston Globe Rhode Island Commentary](#)

*Not only are resilient infrastructure improvements important to the basic functioning of our communities, they are also an excellent investment. According to a recent research report by J.P. Morgan, the return on investment for climate adaptation and resilience projects ranges from \$2 to \$43 for every dollar spent.*

[State and Local Legislators advocate for Resilient Rhody, Bristol Phoenix](#)

*RI Infrastructure Bank William Fazioli spoke on the importance of the bill. "What this fund will do is allow us to create a sustainable financing framework to create a renewable and sustainable financing program for these projects so we can encourage more bolder projects and work with the community going forward," he said.*



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