



2019 Policy Recommendations

LCP law continuation



The EERMC strongly recommends that the executive branch and legislature continue to support Rhode Island's Least Cost Procurement law (§ 39-1-27.7) for both electric and gas service by passing legislation that facilitates and enhances its implementation.

Building energy info to new home owners/renters



Aggregated or asset-based building energy information should be shared with prospective buyers/renters when a building is put up for sale or lease. This would allow greater transparency in Rhode Island building transactions, would spur the market for more energy efficient homes, and would provide a level of customer protection not currently available to home buyers and renters.

Adoption of appliance efficiency standards



Rhode Island should adopt comprehensive appliance efficiency standards that also backstop existing federal appliance standards that may languish. Such action would achieve large energy and cost savings for Rhode Islanders.

EE/Renewable energy workforce development



It is anticipated that the energy efficiency workforce will be rapidly changing in the coming years and will require a retooling of existing skillsets. Therefore, current efforts by the RI Department of Labor & Training as well as the Governor's Workforce Board to support the energy efficiency and renewable energy workforce in Rhode Island should be expanded and coordinated with existing energy programs wherever possible. As the energy market continues to grow and transform within the state, training for the future and current workforce is essential.

Widespread program participation outreach



Rhode Island energy efficiency programs should constantly work to ensure that all customers and segments of the market have access to the benefits of energy efficiency savings. There should be a concerted effort to reach those who are economically vulnerable, and those who are currently above poverty guidelines, but need significant assistance to make efficiency investments. Coordination among all utility, state and federal income-eligible offerings/programs should be optimized to enhance the customer experience, increase program efficiency, and to strive for widespread program participation.

Promote well-being, energy security & affordability



A concerted effort should be made to coordinate energy efficiency programs with renewable energy deployment, state health initiatives, resiliency efforts, and any other relevant state and federal programs that promote well-being and energy security and affordability for all Rhode Islanders.