

2020 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

R.I.G.L. § 42-140.1-5 requires that the EERMC “Submit to the joint committee on energy an annual report... regarding the activities of the Council, its assessment of energy issues, the status of system reliability, energy efficiency and conservation procurement, and its recommendations regarding any improvements which might be necessary or desirable.” The EERMC submits the following recommendations that will support Rhode Island’s position as a national leader in energy efficiency and resource conservation.

As in previous years, we present both *Policy Recommendations* for 2019 and a *Progress Report* on previous recommendations.

2020 Policy Recommendations

1. 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, delivered fuels, and gas customers by passing legislation that perpetuates, facilitates, and enhances its implementation.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

6. A concerted effort should be made to coordinate energy efficiency programs with renewable energy deployment, grid modernization, heating sector transformation, 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.

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2019 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

R.I.G.L. § 42-140.1-5 requires that the EERMC “Submit to the joint committee on energy an annual report... regarding the activities of the Council, its assessment of energy issues, the status of system reliability, energy efficiency and conservation procurement, and its recommendations regarding any improvements which might be necessary or desirable.” The EERMC submits the following recommendations that will support Rhode Island’s position as a national leader in energy efficiency and resource conservation. As in previous years, we present both *Policy Recommendations* for 2018 and a *Progress Report* on previous recommendations.

Continue Least Cost Procurement law



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.

Share building energy information with new homeowners and 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.

Adopt 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.

Expand workforce development in energy efficiency and renewables



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.

Ensure program accessibility for all types of customers



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 and 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.