

# Memo



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

**To:** RI Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council  
**From:** Rachel Sholly, EERMC Consultant Team  
**CC:** Becca Trietch  
**Date:** April 15, 2021  
**Subject:** EERMC Website Updates

CONSULTANT TEAM

## WEBSITE OVERVIEW

The Consultant Team has been tasked with maintaining and updating the Council's website ([rieermc.ri.gov](http://rieermc.ri.gov)) since 2017. The C-Team posts monthly meeting information and materials, along with new plans, reports, studies and RFPs. In addition to these maintenance tasks, our 2021 scope of work includes a refresh of the site to improve usability and value to users.

## SURVEY RESULTS

In December 2020 and January 2021, the Consultant Team surveyed Council members to collect input to guide ongoing website redesign and maintenance. We received five responses.

### Key Take-Aways:

- The Council website should help the general public access available Rhode Island efficiency programs (e.g. incentives, rebates, financing, technical assistance)
- The Council website should inform stakeholders and the general public about the work and role of the EERMC
- The Council website should remain a hub for Council business, where members can access all relevant materials and information
- Ease of navigation and appearance could be improved

## WEBSITE UPDATES

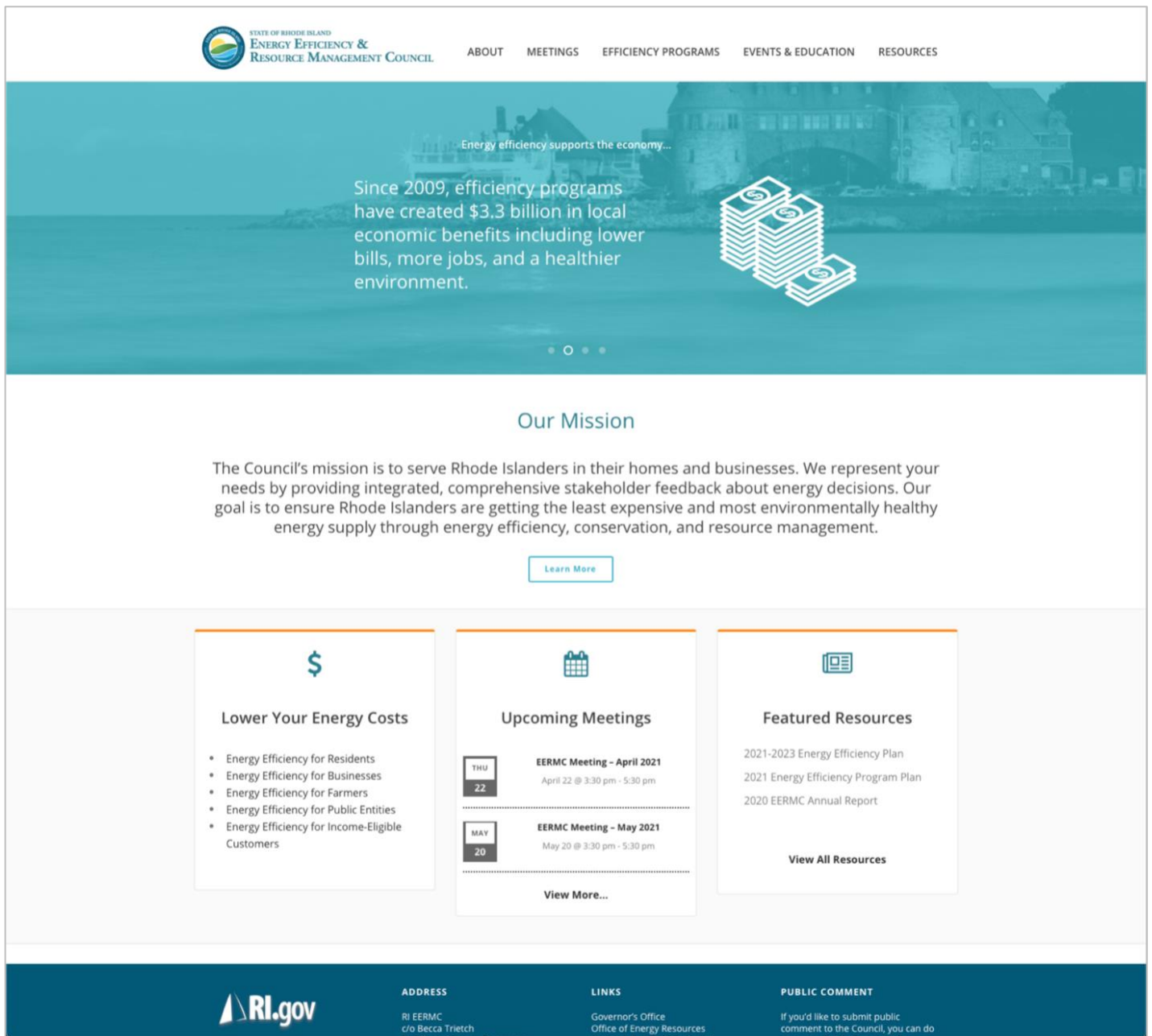
The first round of updates presented here includes primarily content enhancements and reorganization. The C-Team plans to address appearance upgrades in the next phase. The following pages show screenshots of some of the new content for your review. They do not, however, capture all of the updates, so we recommend that you visit the website ([rieermc.ri.gov](http://rieermc.ri.gov)) to explore the extent of improvements firsthand.

## FEEDBACK

The Consultant Team requests feedback from Council members on the current website updates and what additional enhancements you would like, including organization, content, and appearance. Please feel free to reach out to Rachel Sholly ([rachel.sholly@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.sholly@gmail.com)) to discuss your thoughts.

## HOME PAGE

The EERMC landing page remains largely unchanged. In an effort to promote participation in the state's energy efficiency programs, the box in the lower left (which had featured education events) now displays links to program offerings by market segment. Additionally, the top navigation bar has been updated to include "Efficiency Programs" and "Events & Education". Some menu options also have dropdown submenus for easier access. The C-Team welcomes additional input on how to enhance the home page.



The screenshot shows the EERMC Home Page with a teal header and a main content area. The header includes the EERMC logo and navigation links: ABOUT, MEETINGS, EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS, EVENTS & EDUCATION, and RESOURCES. The main content area features a large teal banner with a background image of a coastal town. The banner text reads: "Energy efficiency supports the economy... Since 2009, efficiency programs have created \$3.3 billion in local economic benefits including lower bills, more jobs, and a healthier environment." To the right of the text is an illustration of stacks of money. Below the banner is a section titled "Our Mission" with a paragraph describing the Council's mission and a "Learn More" button. Below this are three columns: "Lower Your Energy Costs" with a list of program categories, "Upcoming Meetings" with a calendar view showing meetings for April 22 and May 20, 2021, and "Featured Resources" with a list of documents and a "View All Resources" button. The footer is dark teal and contains the RI.gov logo, address information, links to the Governor's Office and Office of Energy Resources, and a public comment section.

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

ABOUT MEETINGS EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS EVENTS & EDUCATION RESOURCES

Energy efficiency supports the economy...

Since 2009, efficiency programs have created \$3.3 billion in local economic benefits including lower bills, more jobs, and a healthier environment.

### Our Mission

The Council's mission is to serve Rhode Islanders in their homes and businesses. We represent your needs by providing integrated, comprehensive stakeholder feedback about energy decisions. Our goal is to ensure Rhode Islanders are getting the least expensive and most environmentally healthy energy supply through energy efficiency, conservation, and resource management.

[Learn More](#)

#### Lower Your Energy Costs

- Energy Efficiency for Residents
- Energy Efficiency for Businesses
- Energy Efficiency for Farmers
- Energy Efficiency for Public Entities
- Energy Efficiency for Income-Eligible Customers

#### Upcoming Meetings

**THU 22** **EERMC Meeting - April 2021**  
April 22 @ 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

**MAY 20** **EERMC Meeting - May 2021**  
May 20 @ 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

[View More...](#)

#### Featured Resources

- 2021-2023 Energy Efficiency Plan
- 2021 Energy Efficiency Program Plan
- 2020 EERMC Annual Report

[View All Resources](#)

**RI.gov**


**ADDRESS**  
RI EERMC  
c/o Becca Trietch  
Office of Energy Resources

**LINKS**  
Governor's Office  
Office of Energy Resources  
National Grid of RI Technical

**PUBLIC COMMENT**  
If you'd like to submit public comment to the Council, you can do so through the Council's website.





## ABOUT PAGE

The “About the Council” page has been streamlined to highlight the Council’s legislated purposes and offer easy access to Annual Reports, enabling legislation, bylaws, member handbook, and RFPs. It features an updated description of the Council, including a link to a separate “Council Members” page with individual photos and roles. Users can also access the “Council Members” page from a new dropdown menu in the top navigation bar. This page will also showcase the Council’s Planning Priorities and Policy Recommendations once approved.

[ABOUT](#) [MEETINGS](#) [EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS](#) [EVENTS & EDUCATION](#) [RESOURCES](#)

# About the Council

### LEGISLATED PURPOSES

 <p>Make Recommendations</p>	 <p>Engage Stakeholders</p>	 <p>Monitor and Evaluate</p>	 <p>Ensure Public Benefit</p>
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### WHAT WE DO

The Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council (EERMC) was established in 2006, under amendments to the Rhode Island Energy Resources Act (R.I.G.L. § 42-140.1), to provide oversight of Rhode Island’s ratepayer funded energy efficiency programs and structured stakeholder participation. As defined in the statute, the purpose of the EERMC is to *maximize benefits to Rhode Island energy consumers through energy efficiency*. The Council’s goal is to ensure Rhode Islanders are getting the least expensive and most environmentally healthy energy supply through energy efficiency, conservation, and resource management.


The Council includes fifteen members that represent small and large business, non-profit organizations, market rate and low-income homeowners and renters, municipalities, governments and environmental science and policy. [Meet the Council Members here...](#)

Rhode Island is among the leading energy efficiency jurisdictions in North America. The presence of a council consisting of stakeholders focused on energy efficiency planning is a key driver of Rhode Island’s success. The strength of the Council comes from the fact that diverse, key stakeholders representing all types of Rhode Island interests work together to make decisions from a common set of facts. The EERMC is an integral piece of a collaborative decision-making process to implement the legislative mandate of acquiring all cost-effective efficiency resources.

Explore these links for more information:

<a href="#">Enabling Legislation</a>	<a href="#">Council Bylaws</a>
<a href="#">Member Handbook</a>	<a href="#">Requests for Proposals</a>

### ANNUAL REPORTS




**2020 EERMC Annual Report**

[See All Annual Reports](#)

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## EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS PAGE (NEW)

This is a new page dedicated to helping ratepayers connect to available energy efficiency programs. We opted not to recreate a large compilation of resources and instead direct users to the existing well-organized collection on RI OER's website. If Council members would instead prefer that all available programs are detailed here, please let us know and we can expand this page.



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ABOUT MEETINGS EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS EVENTS & EDUCATION RESOURCES


# Energy Efficiency Programs

### EFFICIENCY FOR YOU!


No matter who you are, there is an energy efficiency program for you. Participating in energy efficiency programs helps lower your energy bills, supports local jobs and the economy, and reduces emissions to mitigate climate change.

Rhode Island is a nationally-recognized leader in energy efficiency, in part due to this array of programs that offer incentives, rebates, financing, and technical assistance to all Rhode Islanders.


Follow these links to learn more from the RI Office of Energy Resources...




Energy Efficiency for  
**Residents**




Energy Efficiency for  
**Businesses**




Energy Efficiency for  
**Farmers**



Energy Efficiency for  
**Public Entities**



Energy Efficiency for  
**Income-Eligible**



**RI.gov**

**ADDRESS**  
RI EERMC  
c/o Becca Trietch  
RI Office of Energy Resources  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908

**LINKS**  
Governor's Office  
Office of Energy Resources  
National Grid RI EE Technical  
Working Group

**PUBLIC COMMENT**  
If you'd like to submit public  
comment to the Council, you can do  
so on our [Public Comment Page](#).

## EVENTS & EDUCATION PAGE (NEW)

Given the growing number of educational activities the Council is organizing and supporting, creating a dedicated page to these efforts was a priority. The “Public Education & Events” page links to separate pages to each of the three public events the Council currently funds – the EERMC Annual Forum, the Energy Expo, and the Energy Lecture Series. This page also features a “Learn About Efficiency” section, which will house the educational videos currently being commissioned by the Council when they are complete in late 2021.


**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL** ABOUT MEETINGS EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS **EVENTS & EDUCATION** RESOURCES

### Public Education & Events

#### PUBLIC EVENTS


An important role of the EERMC is to promote public awareness of energy efficiency programs and their benefits. The Council hosts and sponsors a variety of public events that help Rhode Islanders understand the value of energy efficiency as the state works to achieve its energy and climate goals. Click on a photo to learn more about an event...

**EERMC Annual Public Forum**




2020 Virtual Forum - COVID-19 Crossroads: Achieving Equitable Health Outcomes Through Energy Efficiency  
Learn more...

**Energy Expo at the Home Show**



The Home Show will return in April 2021!  
Learn more...

**Energy Lecture Series**



2020 Virtual Lecture Series - URI Plugged Into Energy Research  
Learn more...

#### FARMER EDUCATION

Due to the volatile nature and seasonality of many farm businesses, keeping costs low is vital to their success. However, participation in the half-dozen available farm energy programs has remained low. Conversations with stakeholders, energy program administrators, and National Grid suggest low participation is due, in part, to a lack of knowledge of available programs.

In 2019, the EERMC and National Grid co-funded an Energy Fellow (University of Rhode Island student) from March through December to assist with outreach to the farm community regarding energy management. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts took a digital approach this year, with outreach conducted virtually through webinars, social media, and email lists. The Energy Fellow also printed the Farm Energy Guide developed in 2019, which helps farmers navigate the many energy programs and incentives available to them and will be a valuable resource for years to come. Presentations were also given at several workshops and further outreach was conducted through a growing social media presence: Facebook and Instagram (@RIFarmEnergyResources).

#### K-12 TEACHER TRAINING

The National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project provides energy curriculum and training to K-12 teachers and students throughout the United States with over 30 years of programming in Rhode Island with OER and National Grid. In 2020, the EERMC supported the expansion and enhancement the NEED energy efficiency and conservation curriculum and training with content on energy justice and climate science. Building on NEED's portfolio of energy curriculum resources and training processes, this new curriculum module brings together energy efficiency and conservation (both school and residential), building science, climate science, energy justice, and health for Rhode Island teachers, students and families. The project seeks to include additional components for healthy outdoor spaces, urban landscapes and heat islands as related to energy, efficiency, climate and health. These components will strengthen the use of the curriculum in Rhode Island schools, especially Environmental Science, and nonformal education programs. The first workshop to train teachers on the new module was held in March 2021, and the second will be held in the fall of 2021.


The curriculum "Energy, Climate, and You (Rhode Island Edition)" and more information can be found at [National Energy Education Development](#).

#### LEARN ABOUT ENERGY EFFICIENCY


Explore these resources to learn more about energy efficiency in Rhode Island.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

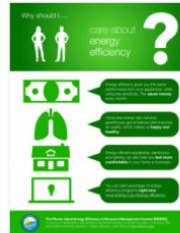
**Join the Energy Efficiency Conversation**



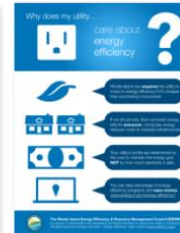
**Benefits of Energy Efficiency in Rhode Island**



**Why Should I Care About Energy Efficiency?**




**Why Does My Utility Care About Energy Efficiency?**





## RESOURCES PAGE (NEW)

The “Resources” page combines “Plans & Reports” and “Resources”, which what used to be split into two pages. Upon clicking, each subsection drops down to reveal the relevant lists, links, and descriptions. Two new elements here are the Three-Year Planning Cycle graphic at the top and the section “Key Efficiency Entities” at the bottom.




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ABOUT MEETINGS EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS EVENTS & EDUCATION RESOURCES

# Resources

### EFFICIENCY PLANNING IN RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island's energy efficiency activities work in three-year cycles that include 1) setting energy savings targets, 2) developing three-year plans, 3) developing, implementing, and evaluating annual plans for three years, 4) evaluating again, and 5) using the evaluation results to inform the next cycle.



The diagram illustrates the three-year planning process. At the top, a timeline shows years '17, '18, '19, and '20. A magnifying glass highlights the '18-'19-'20 period. The process starts with 'Targets' leading to a 'Three-Year Plan'. This plan is then broken down into 'Annual Plans' for each year (2018, 2019, 2020). Each annual plan cycle includes 'Plan Drafts', 'Plan', 'Implement', and 'EM&V' (Evaluation, Monitoring, and Verification). The 'EM&V' results from one year feed into the 'Targets' for the next year, creating a continuous cycle.

### LEGISLATION & PLANS

- Least Cost Procurement Legislation & Standards >
- Energy Efficiency Savings Targets >
- Energy Efficiency & System Reliability Plans >
- Energy Efficiency & System Reliability Program Results >
- EERMC Annual Reports >

(image continued on next page)

## RESOURCES PAGE (NEW) – CONT'D

### EM&V STUDIES

Evaluation studies help to verify and qualify the impact that programs are having on energy savings. These studies are relied upon to inform the planning and development of National Grid's energy efficiency programs and services.

<a href="#">Commercial &amp; Industrial</a>	>
<a href="#">Residential</a>	>
<a href="#">Income Eligible</a>	>
<a href="#">Cross Cutting</a>	>
<a href="#">System Reliability Procurement</a>	>

### EERMC COMMISSIONED STUDIES

The EERMC occasionally commissions studies to better understand opportunities and potential strategies for accessing energy efficiency savings in Rhode Island.

<a href="#">Rhode Island Market Potential Study (2021-2026)</a>	>
<a href="#">Finance Study</a>	>
<a href="#">Opportunity Reports</a>	>

### KEY EFFICIENCY ENTITIES

Several entities are instrumental in ensuring that Rhode Island's energy efficiency programs perform at their best and adhere to the law of Least Cost Procurement.

<a href="#">Utilities</a>	>
<a href="#">Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council (EERMC)</a>	>
<a href="#">Public Utilities Commission (PUC)</a>	>
<a href="#">Division of Public Utilities &amp; Carriers (DPUC)</a>	>
<a href="#">Office of Energy Resources (OER)</a>	>
<a href="#">Energy Efficiency Technical Working Group (EE TWG)</a>	>