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# Equity Working Group (EWG) Report Overview

October 17, 2024

# The Equity Working Group met seven times in 2024

Meetings are facilitated by Green & Healthy Homes Initiative. Representatives from the following organizations attended at least one meeting:



# The 2024 EWG report details recommendations to RIE

Key Themes & Recommendations	Ongoing RIE Action
<b>1. Incorporate Prior Recommendations and Strategies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Increase support for small and micro business</li> <li>II. Address participation barriers &amp; PWBs</li> <li>III. Provide transparency in equity related efforts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Working with RI Commerce MWOB Department since August 2024</li> <li>✓ Hosting webinar for MWOB – October 2024</li> </ul>
<b>2. Enhance Outreach and Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Weatherization presentations to Lifespan’s Connect4Health advocates</li> <li>✓ HEZ Learning Community Spotlight presentation planned – October 2024</li> </ul>
<b>3. Strengthen and Support Collaborations with Community Based Organizations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Landlord Listening Sessions with Progreso Latino – September 2024</li> <li>✓ Landlord Listening Sessions being planned with PVD, EP, and Woonsocket</li> </ul>
<b>4. Utilize URI’s Cooperative Extension Housing Community of Practice – Health Equity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Plugged In Series planned for October 2024</li> <li>✓ EEC approved proposal – in progress</li> </ul>
<b>5. Continue to Expand Language Accessibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Audit schedulers, flyers, in-person sessions offered in Spanish, ASL recordings planned with OSCIL</li> </ul>
<b>6. Strengthen Partnerships with Builders and Contractors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ New EWG members from One Neighborhood Builders</li> <li>✓ Relationships with Building Futures, RIBA, PHA, RI HUD</li> </ul>

# The report highlights efforts informed by prior EWG discussions and recommendations



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## Addressing Participation and Multifamily Barriers

Sessions presented, questions answered, and audits scheduled in English and Spanish.

New weatherization flyers in Spanish.



*RISE Employee scheduling home energy audit for properties owned by landlords in Central Falls*



*RIE's Brendan Dagher, Carinel Legrand, and Kate Felder with Mario Bueno of Progreso Latino*

At the Landlord Listening Sessions at Progreso Latino, over **65** landlords in Central Falls attended the two events in September. Over **fifty** of those attendees requested an audit.

# Education and outreach in Justice40 Communities continue to be a big focus for the EWG

## Strengthen Support & Collaboration with Community Based Organizations

- Lifespan Connect4Health
- Rhode Island Food Bank
- Central Providence HEZ
- One Neighborhood Builders
  - Federal Hill House



*Michael Nina and Omar Reyes from Central Providence Health Equity Zone and One Neighborhood Builders with RIE's Kate Felder at West End Community Center – August 2024.*



*Photo from Lifespan Community Health Institute's website. RIE Energy Efficiency Programs shared weatherization resources with 72 community health advocates in October 2024.*

RIE is sharing home audit/weatherization information through trusted community partners in Justice 40 areas via newsletter and community events. RIE supports community orgs by tabling at resource fairs, serving on HEZ boards, and sharing social media resources. Weatherization information is shared by CLEAResult and RIE at monthly customer expos across the state of Rhode Island.

# This year's report demonstrates a clear link to the energy efficiency planning and oversight cycle

- ✓ Draft report delivered to EWG and EEC in August
- ✓ Report recommendations incorporated into 2025 EE Plan
  - Detailed meeting minutes available in report appendix
- ✓ Final report delivered in September ahead of EEC vote
- ✓ Equity metrics selected and adopted in Q1 2024
  - Significant progress achieved – on track to deliver in Q3 report
  - Equity metrics to be reported quarterly and reviewed annually