

- **Building Public Awareness:**  
Educating Rhode Island on Energy Efficiency

**Kaeley Skakalski**

December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024



# Introduction: Kaeley Skakalski

- Lebanon, New Hampshire
- B.S. Environmental and Natural Resource Economics & Minor in General Business ~ December 2024
- 2024 Mike Guerard Energy Fellow; Clean Energy Intern at Optimal Energy, an NV5 Company
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# Optimal Energy; An NV5 Company | Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council (EEC)

“Cost-effective energy efficiency is the foundation of a sustainable energy future. The Council is committed to helping Rhode Island achieve its climate mandates and work toward a clean, reliable, and affordable energy economy. This is achievable when all Rhode Islanders have access to the full benefits of energy efficiency.” - EEC



# 2021 Act on Climate: Emission Mandates

2030

**45% below 1990  
levels by 2030**

2040

**80% below 1990  
levels by 2030**

2050

**Net-zero  
emissions by 2050**

# EEC Collaboration: RIE and OER Programs



## Rhode Island Energy (RIE)

- Home Energy Assessments
- The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

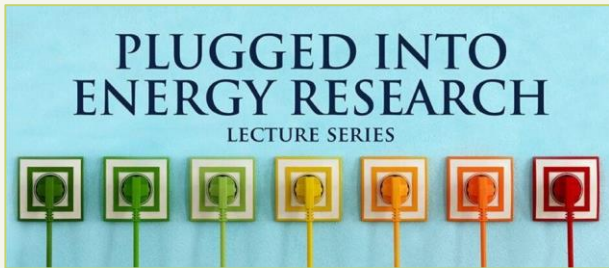


## Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER)

- Electric Leaf Blower Rebate Program
- Rhode Island Agricultural Entry Grant Program

# Energy Efficiency Public Outreach Efforts

University of Rhode  
Island's Plugged Into  
Energy Research Lecture  
Series



Energy Expo at  
the Rhode Island  
Home Show



EEC Annual Public Forum  
partnered with RI  
Department of Health's  
HEZ Initiative



# Barriers in Public Outreach

<b><u>Lack of Awareness &amp; Knowledge</u></b>	Some Rhode Islanders are <b>unaware of the importance of EE and lack the knowledge to encourage them to take action.</b>
<b><u>Misconceptions &amp; Mistrust</u></b>	Some Rhode Islanders have <b>false understandings or misconceptions of what EE is and why it matters &amp; general mistrust of EE development.</b>
<b><u>Resistance to Change</u></b>	Some Rhode Islanders do <b>not believe that EE is necessary and are resistant to learn about the concept.</b>
<b><u>Access to Information</u></b>	Some Rhode Islanders <b>do not actively seek EE information and must be reached in general/everyday locations.</b>
<b><u>Communication with Non-English Speakers</u></b>	Some Rhode Islanders are <b>non-English speaking and must be communicated with in their native language.</b>



# EEC Public Awareness Campaign

**GOAL: TO EDUCATE AND MOTIVATE RHODE ISLANDERS TO ADOPT ENERGY EFFICIENCY PRACTICES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL PROVIDE A FINANCIAL BENEFIT TO CONSUMERS AND QUALITY BENEFIT TO THE ENVIRONMENT**



**YOU HAVE THE POWER**

to protect your family against the impacts of climate change.

You may qualify for **NO-COST** energy upgrades. **FIND OUT NOW**



**TIENES EL PODER**

de proteger a tu familia contra los impactos del cambio climático!

Puedes calificar para mejoras de energía **SIN COSTO.** **DESCÚBRELO AHORA.**



# My Work at Optimal Energy: 2025 Annual Plan Review

	A	B	C	D
24				
25		<b>2025 Energy Efficiency Benefits</b>		
26				
27				Total
28				Excluding
29				Non-CHP
30	20	<b>Residential</b>		<b>\$69,245,858</b>
31	20	Residential New Construction		\$5,433,197
32	20	Residential HVAC		\$23,716,818
33	20	EnergyWise Single Family		\$28,549,645
34	20	EnergyWise Multifamily		\$1,342,563
35	20	Home Energy Reports		\$5,301,110
36	20	Residential Consumer Products		\$4,902,524
37	20	<b>Income Eligible Residential</b>		<b>\$26,561,381</b>
38	20	Income Eligible Single Family		\$23,387,716
39	20	Income Eligible Multifamily		\$3,173,665
40	20	<b>Commercial &amp; Industrial</b>		<b>\$97,214,284</b>
41	20	Large C&I New Construction		\$31,770,738
42	20	Large C&I Retrofit		\$53,042,043
43	20	Small Business Direct Install		\$12,401,503
44	20	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$193,021,522</b>

Table E-5 Primary Rhode Island Energy Calculation of 2025 Program Year Cost-Effectiveness

	(a)	(b)	(c)
	RI Test Benefit / Cost	Total Benefit	Program Implementation Expenses
1 <b>Residential</b>			
2 Residential New Construction	3.30	\$5,433.2	\$
3 Residential HVAC	2.61	\$23,716.8	\$
4 EnergyWise Single Family	2.13	\$28,549.6	\$
5 EnergyWise Multifamily	1.33	\$1,342.6	\$
6 Home Energy Reports	2.30	\$5,301.1	\$
7 Residential Consumer Products	2.01	\$4,902.5	\$
8 Comprehensive Marketing - Residential			
9 Community Based Initiatives - Residential			
10 Residential Pilots			
11 <b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>\$69,245.9</b>	<b>\$</b>
12 <b>Income Eligible Residential</b>			
13 Income Eligible Single Family	1.95	\$23,387.7	\$
14 Income Eligible Multifamily	1.40	\$3,173.7	\$
15 <b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>\$26,561.4</b>	<b>\$</b>
16 <b>Commercial &amp; Industrial</b>			
17 Large C&I New Construction	4.08	\$31,770.7	\$
18 Large C&I Retrofit	1.93	\$53,042.0	\$
19 Small Business Direct Install	1.37	\$12,401.5	\$
20 C&I Financing			
21 Community Based Initiatives - C&I			
22 Commercial Pilots			
23 <b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>\$97,214.3</b>	<b>\$</b>
24 <b>Portfolio</b>			
25 EEC			
26 OER			
27 Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank			
28 <b>Subtotal</b>			
29 <b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1.99</b>	<b>\$193,021.5</b>	<b>\$</b>

# My Work at EEC Newsletters

**EEC NEWSLETTER**

**RHODE ISLAND NOV. 2024**

**EQUITY WORKING GROUP**  
The Energy Efficiency Equity Working Group (E3EQ) covered in October 2024.  
[Read more on page 3.](#)

**EC4 UPDATE**  
The EC4 was on October, and held an EC4 Advisory Board meeting on October 16th.  
[Read more on page 4.](#)

**URI ENERGY LECTURES**  
On October 29th the University of Rhode Island began their 2024 Plugged Into Energy Research (PIER) Lecture series.  
[Read more on page 5.](#)

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**MEETINGS COVER**

Oct 7th - EC4  
Oct 16th - EWG  
Oct 30th - EC4 Advisory Board

Issue 9, November 2024

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY COUNCIL**

**The Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council (EEEC)** is a group of stakeholders that serves all of Rhode Island by providing the most expansive resource on energy efficiency. Learn more at <https://eeec.org/>

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**RHODE ISLAND ENERGY SAVINGS FOR WOMEN & MINORITY OWNED BUSINESSES WEBINAR**

On Tuesday, October 29th Rhode Island Energy (RIE) hosted a webinar alongside RISE Engineering to discuss the topic: Savings for Women & Minority Owned Businesses (WM/ME). The meeting began with the President of RISE Engineering, Vin Driscoll, presenting an overview of RIE's Business Energy Efficiency (BEE) Program. Vin shared the valuable tools RIE has to provide their customers on-site, no-cost assessments to identify specific ways each business can save energy and describe the services to implement necessary improvements, and make the process affordable. Vin continued to highlight key details of what RIE has to offer through their BEE Business Program - up to 70% of total project costs covered with an additional 10% off if business share of the cost is covered.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**ACEE RECOGNIZES LEADING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS**

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEE) named their E3EQ Leaders of the Residential Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) for two of its outstanding energy efficiency (EE) programs.

RIE received an Exemplary Program Award for their Economy (ACEE) named their E3EQ Leaders of the Residential Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) for two of its outstanding energy efficiency (EE) programs.

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**RHODE ISLAND ENERGY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024**

was that all RISE Engineering employees, subcontractors, and trades partners registered to be submitted to a background check, which is cleared by RIE. RISE complies in any instances where a customer requests additional background checks. It was also if on-site assessments are available on weekdays after 4:00 PM. Appointment availability is limited on weekends, but possible, but evening appointments are not offered.

The meeting concluded with a call to action from RIE. Peter Foster encouraged attendees to raise awareness about WM/ME program offerings by emailing their members and consultants, sharing the energy efficiency program brochure, sharing social media posts, and more.

**RHODE ISLAND ENERGY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024**

covered information of what example is. Brian Emerson shared that sources available for heat pumps. The Office of Energy Resources in RI, which helps customers avoid fuel to heat pumps. Additionally, offerings for saving electric.

It's not over, his analysis has been made of misperceptions (S and sole proprietors for minority and in RI, many of which are not homes. It was explained that construction would fall into the category, so the more weather programs on local, Infrastructure University of California study took. Utilized Nestral to simulate urban defects with the goal of preventing future formation to reduce toxic

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The Energy Efficiency Equity Working Group (E3EQ) convened on October 16th. Mark Bagal and Leigh Ellis provided an update on behalf of Rhode Island Energy (RIE) on Women & Minority Owned Businesses (WM/ME) in Rhode Island. Brian Emerson presented an overview of the State and local initiatives that support WM/ME. They highlighted the Healthy Providence Health Homes Program.

RIE's Final Report overview addressed localities and key themes. Topics mentioned were participation barriers, pre-weatherization barriers, marketing and reporting, workforce and resource development, as well as community engagement outreach.

**EEC NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024**

**STUDENTS HARNESS POWER OF NEW NESTRAL SUPERCOMPUTER FOR CUTTING-EDGE ENERGY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

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**EC4 UPDATE**

The Rhode Island Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) held a public meeting on October 17th located at the Rhode Island Foundation.

EC4 Chair, Tony Dwyer, provided an overview on grant application status. Unfortunately, neither state or federal agencies were accepted, but the foundation of that application will be improved upon in hopes of being selected to receive funding next year. Building, Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank received a large multi-million dollar grant, and there was another large coalition grant for a bunch of different states. The Narragansett Pier received a grant for over \$60 million they made note that the impacts of climate change are not only a concern for southern regions of the United States, he identified Rhode Island's Charlestown Beachway, Newport Cliff Walk, and Brock Island, and all of climate change.

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**UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND'S PLUGGED INTO ENERGY RESEARCH LECTURE**

On October 29th the University of Rhode Island began their 2024 Plugged Into Energy Research (PIER) Lecture series. The evening's topic was "Comfortable, Healthy and Cost Effective: The Power of Home Energy Upgrades". Moderated by EEC member, Priscilla De La Cruz, the panelists included John Erickson of CLEARhouse, Brian Ceballos of the Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP), and Carina LeGrand of Rhode Island Energy (RIE).

John Erickson presented on the benefits of energy efficient (EE) construction. He stated that the four pillars of EE homes include insulation, envelope leakage, reduced thermal bridging, and sufficient ventilation. John's presentation highlighted the importance of weatherization and provided viewers with advanced contact information and documentation findings with photographs.

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# Logic Model

SITUATION	INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES (SHORT TERM)	OUTCOMES (MEDIUM TERM)	OUTCOMES (LONG TERM)
Climate change driven by increased greenhouse gas emissions is negatively impacting the well-being of the environment, threatening species populations, and posing a threat to human health and well-being.	<p>Time</p> <p>Money</p> <p>Employees</p> <p>Research</p> <p>Technology</p> <p>Knowledge</p> <p>Data</p> <p>Partners</p>	Ensure that the EEC has accurate information, proper understanding of the content presented before them, and is aware of their duties and opportunities as a Council.	<p>Monthly Full Council Meetings</p> <p>Executive Committee Meetings</p> <p>Education Committee Meetings</p> <p>Biannual Learning, Education, and Advancement Discussion (LEAD) Meetings</p> <p>Council Sponsored Events</p> <p>Public Awareness Campaign</p>	<p>Energy Efficiency Policy and Program Development &amp; Implementation</p> <p>Community driven discussion</p>	<p>Rhode Island meeting the 2021 Act on Climate goal of emission reduction to net zero by 2050</p> <p>Renewable energy being the standard energy source in Rhode Island by 2050</p> <p>Equitable access of energy efficiency opportunities and benefits to all Rhode Island residents.</p>	The neutralization of carbon dioxide levels leading to improved air quality, improved human health, and stabilization of environmental processes and ecosystems.



# Acknowledgements



# & Thank You!

# Questions?

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LinkedIn:



# Works Cited

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