



Rhode Island Energy Efficiency: Policy Discussion

January 2025

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All materials associated with the Energy Efficiency Council are the work of the "Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council" and any public meetings materials posted on the RI Secretary of State website should be searched using that title.

Key Take-Aways



Energy efficiency has many economic, environmental & social *benefits*



Energy efficiency is an essential foundation to *Act on Climate*

Outline



- EE programs
- EE benefits
- EE policy

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What is the EEC?



eec.ri.gov

Mission:

The Energy Efficiency Council *monitors the state's energy efficiency programs* to maximize cost-effective energy savings for all Rhode Islanders through comprehensive stakeholder representation and expert technical evaluation.

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Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Programs

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What is energy efficiency?



Energy efficiency is using less energy to achieve the same result.



INSULATION



HEAT PUMPS



APPLIANCES

Other examples: lighting, air sealing, thermostats, water heating, windows, electronics

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What is *NOT* energy efficiency?

Energy Efficiency \neq Conservation



It's *not* using less and getting less.

Energy Efficiency \neq Renewable Energy



It's *not* generating energy.

All of these work together to decarbonize our energy system. **DRAFT**

Energy efficiency programs in RI



Blower Door Test – See appendix slides

- Serve residential, commercial, industrial
 - Financial incentives & rebates
 - Financing, loans, grants
 - Technical assistance
- Have significant oversight & regulation
 - Programs must pass cost-effective test
- Administered by Rhode Island Energy
 - \$117 million annual spend
 - \$268 million benefits

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Benefits of Energy Efficiency

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Efficiency programs drive progress



Market Transformation

Over time lighting technology has gotten significantly more efficient, less expensive to run, and longer lasting.

Energy efficiency policies and programs lowered costs for consumers and catalyzed the transition.



INCANDESCENT



CFL



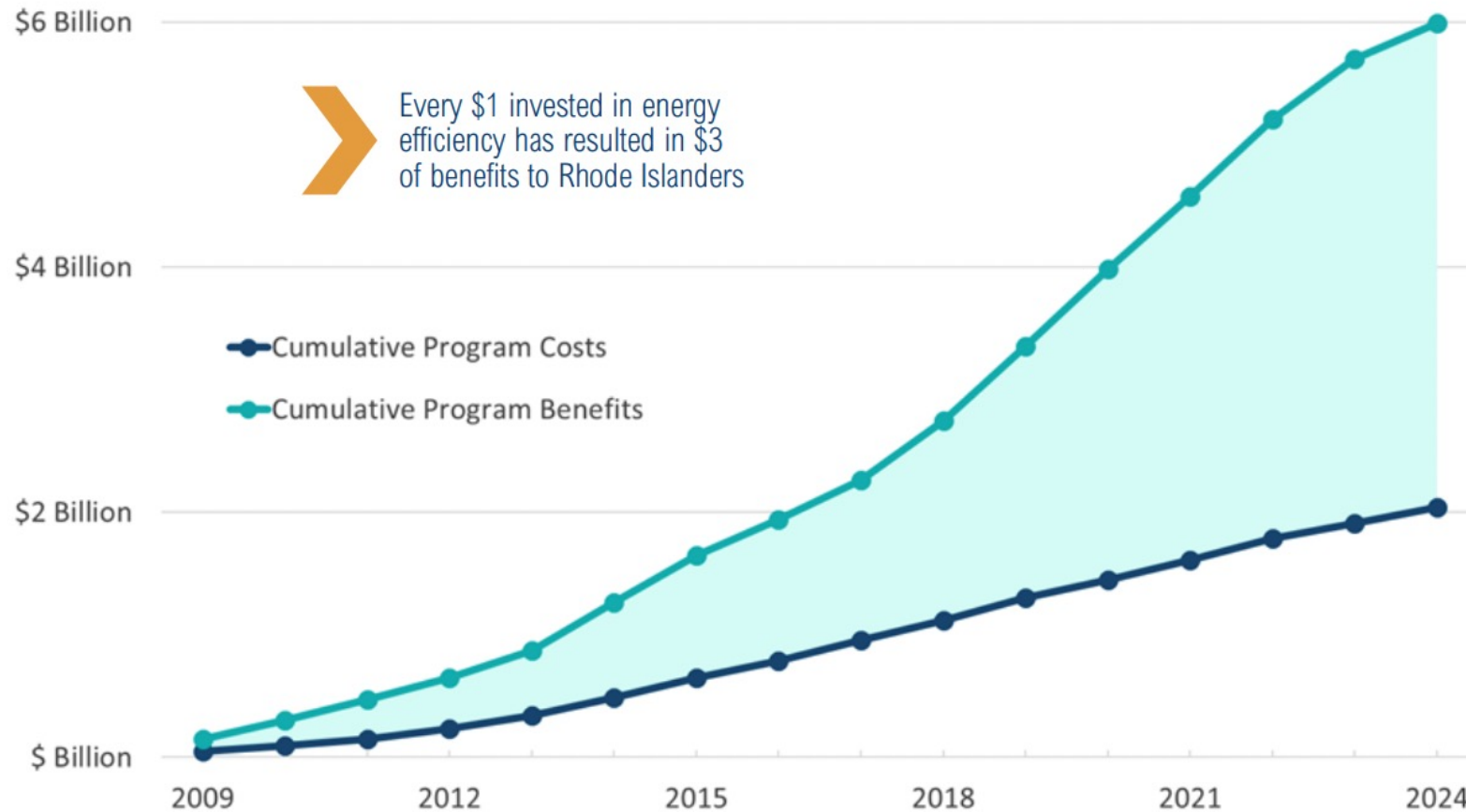
LED



Efficiency is cost effective



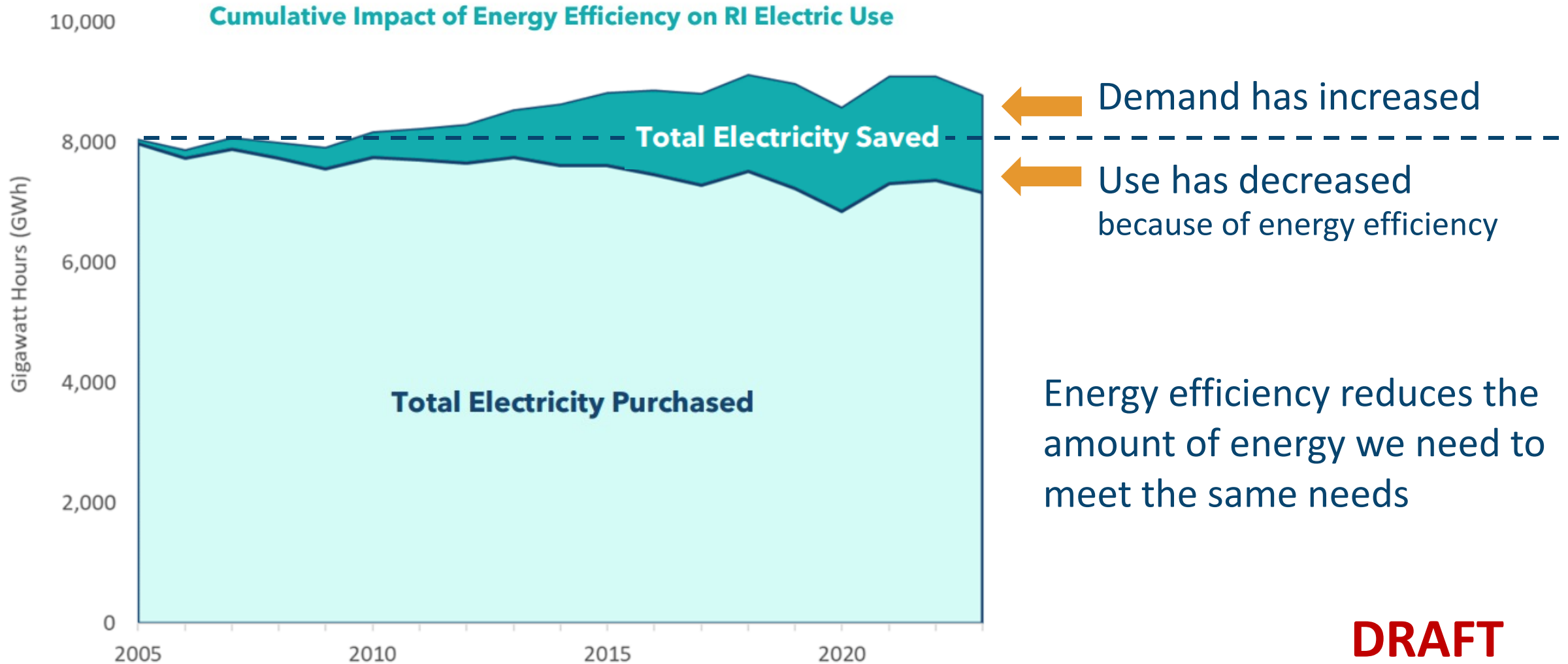
Value of Energy Efficiency Program Benefits Compared to Costs



Every \$1 invested in energy efficiency has resulted in \$3 of benefits to Rhode Islanders

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Efficiency policy is working



Energy efficiency = jobs & economy



In 2023, energy efficiency programs resulted in...

\$495 million

in total benefits to Rhode Islanders



In 2023, energy efficiency programs in Rhode Island created...

749 jobs

(full-time equivalent)



626

companies

delivered energy efficiency services in 2023

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS PAYING OFF FOR RHODE ISLANDERS

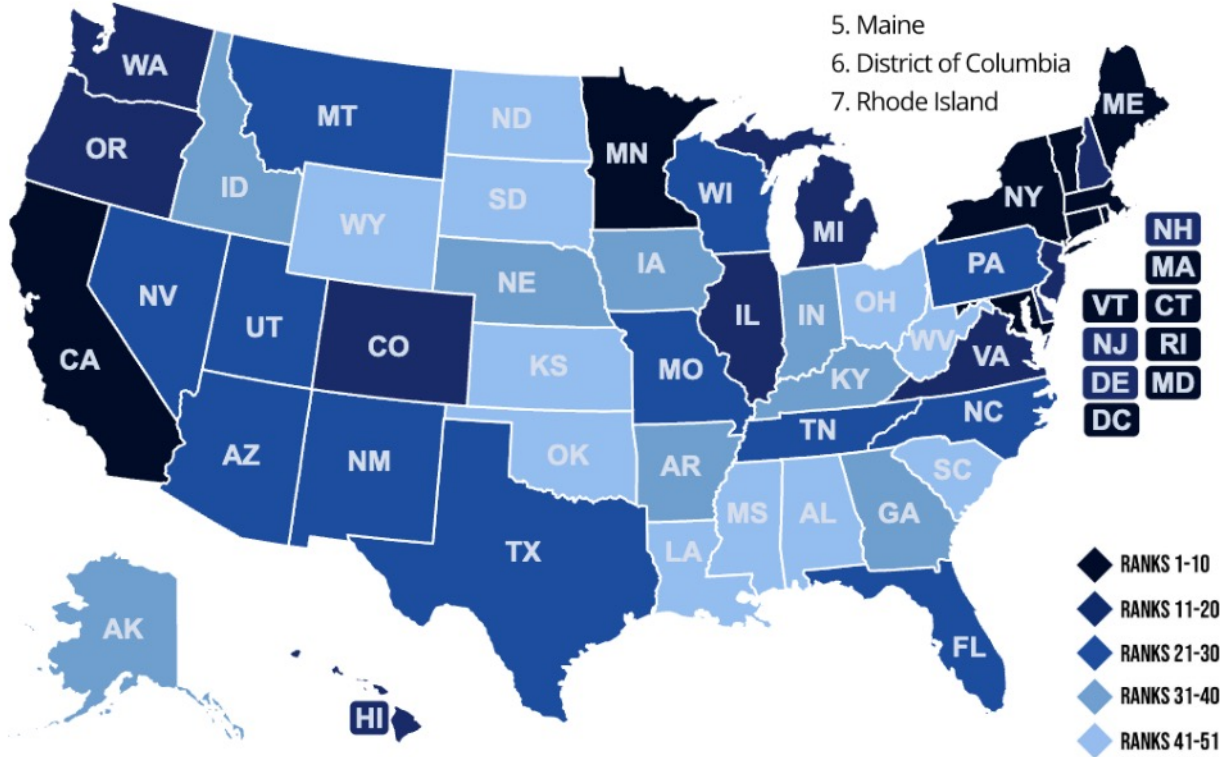
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Rhode Island is a national leader



2022 ACEEE State Energy Efficiency Scorecard

1. California
2. Massachusetts
3. New York
4. Vermont
5. Maine
6. District of Columbia
7. Rhode Island



Year	Rank
2015	4
2016	4
2017	3
2018	3
2019	3
2020	4
2022	7

Since 2009, Rhode Island has consistently ranked *among the top 10 states.*



Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Policy

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Policy drives the programs



Title 39 Public Utilities and Carriers

Chapter 1 Public Utilities Commission

R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.7

§ 39-1-27.7. System reliability and least-cost procurement.

(a) Least-cost procurement shall comprise system reliability and energy efficiency and conservation procurement, as provided for in this section, and supply procurement, as provided for in § 39-1-27.8, as complementary but distinct activities that have as common purpose meeting electrical and natural gas energy needs in Rhode Island, in a manner that is optimally cost-effective, reliable, prudent, and environmentally responsible.

(b) The commission shall establish not later than June 1, 2008, standards for system reliability and energy efficiency and conservation procurement that shall include standards and guidelines for:

(1) System reliability procurement, including but not limited to:

(i) Procurement of energy supply from diverse sources, including, but not limited to, renewable energy resources as defined in chapter 26 of this title;

(ii) Distributed generation, including leading combined heat and power, and other systems that provide system benefits;

(iii) Demand response, including on-demand usage reduction, that regional demand response program of New England ("ISO-NE"), and load control or using on-site generation;

(iv) To effectuate the purposes of (A) For qualifying distributed generation; (B) For net metering; (C) For back-up power for distributed generation; and (D) For such other matters as the commission may find necessary or appropriate.

(2) Least-cost procurement, which shall include procurement of energy efficiency and energy conservation measures that are prudent and reliable and when such measures are lower cost than acquisition of additional supply, including supply for periods of high demand.

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**Least Cost Procurement Law:
(2006) (RIGL 39-1-27.7)**

Rhode Island must invest in all energy efficiency that is less expensive than buying energy.

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Efficiency is funded through energy bills



RIE Customer Service: 1-855-743-1101
 Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM
 Electric Emergencies: 1-855-743-1101 (24 x 7)
 Website: RIEnergy.com

Meter 00000000 Account 00000-00000

Due Date	Amount Due
5/29/24	\$238.71

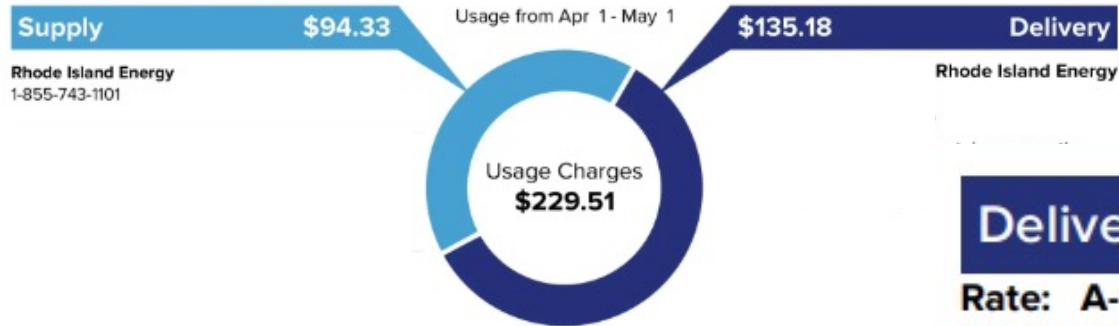
[Billing Details on Back](#)

Electric Service to:
 Customer Name
 0000 Main Street
 Anytown, USA



Rhode Island Energy™

a PPL company



Delivery Details

Rate: **A-16 Residential-Std Ofr**

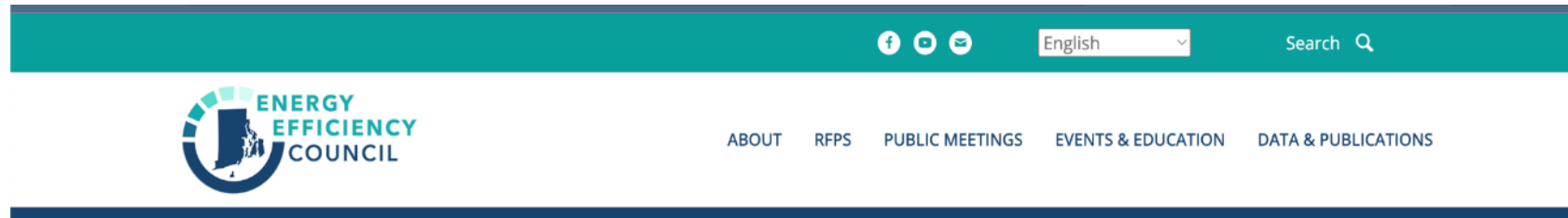
Customer Charge		6.00
RE Growth Program Chg		4.02
LIHEAP Enhancement Chg		0.79
Distribution Energy Chg	600 kWh at 0.06304	37.83
Renewable Energy Dist Chg	600 kWh at 0.02444	14.67
Energy Efficiency Programs	600 kWh at 0.01334	8.01
Transmission Charge	600 kWh at 0.04161	24.97

Total Delivery Charges **\$96.29**

Energy efficiency programs are funded through a small surcharge on all gas & electric bills



Learn more on our website



Energy Videos

Watch the “**Energy Explained RI**” series, created by the Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council and the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources, to learn more about energy efficiency topics relevant to Rhode Islanders.



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Policy Discussion

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Efficiency is essential to Act on Climate



*“While the utilities’ **efficiency programs** support a number of weatherization programs and appliance efficiency standards, these **should continue to be expanded**”*

– [EC4 Act on Climate 2022 Update](#) (pg. 8)

Available Online at: <https://climatechange.ri.gov/media/1261/download?language=en>

*“To achieve the Act [on Climate], **all scenarios rely on significant energy efficiency measures**, such as building shell retrofits, that far exceed the state’s rate of adoption today”*

– [Technical Analysis in Future of Gas Docket](#) (pg. 12)

Available Online at: <https://apexanalytics.egnyte.com/fl/04TdzqfvbL#folder-link/Future%20of%20Gas%20Documents/Reports?p=46286d24-f7f2-4d79-a551-6be19cf4bfb5>

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While RI has been a leader, times are changing



- Act on Climate
 - EE is increasingly important as we electrify
- Time spent planning vs. doing is onerous
- Persistent equity issues

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Policy Discussion

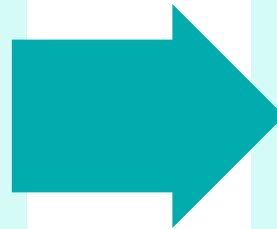


GOAL

DISCUSSION

1

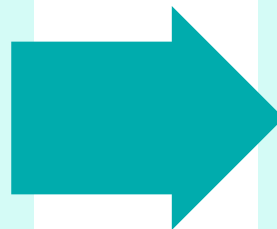
Avoid incentivizing outdated technologies that contribute to climate change



Re-evaluate incentives for gas appliances and gas infrastructure

2

Leverage energy efficiency as the foundation to climate planning and action



Fully integrate electrification and decarbonization into 2025 Climate Plan

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Additional Resources



- [EEC Handbook](#)
- [EEC 2024 Annual Report](#)
- [EEC Website](#)
- What else?

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Key Take-Aways



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Energy efficiency is an essential foundation to *Act on Climate*



Questions?
