



# 2025 EERMC Annual Report Development Update

Consultant Team Presentation

March 31, 2025

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

# Outline



Statutory Requirements

Executive Summary Pamphlet

New Approach

Policy Recommendations

Timeline & Next Steps

Discussion

# Annual Report Requirements

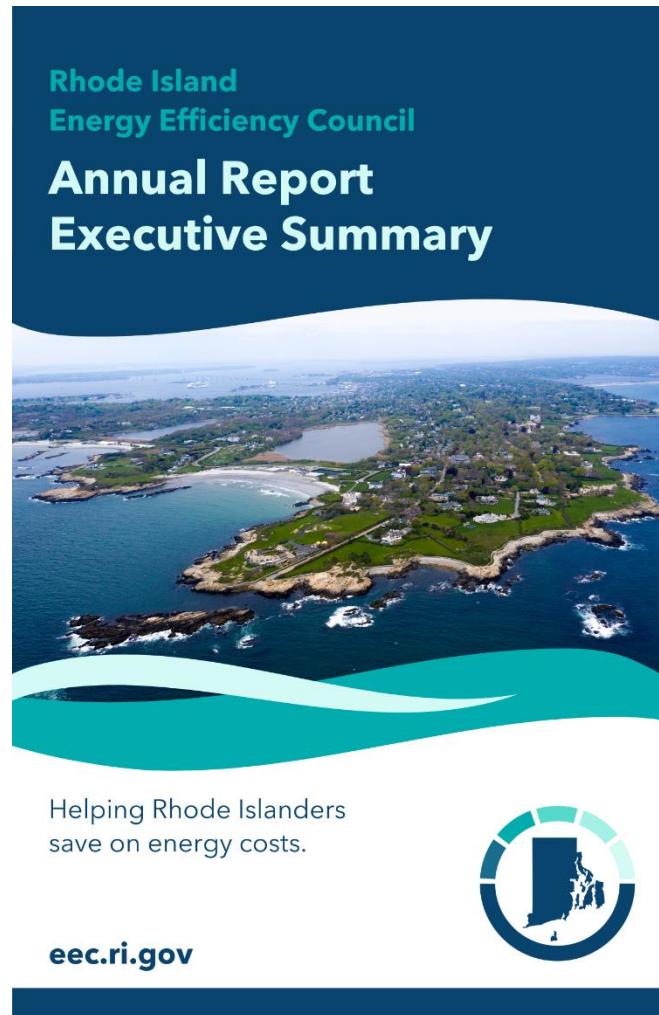


The Powers and Duties section of the EEC's enabling legislation requires the Council to:

*“Submit to the joint committee on energy an annual report on/or before April 15 of each year, commencing in 2008, regarding*

- The activities of the council,*
- Its assessment of energy issues,*
- The status of system reliability, energy efficiency and conservation procurement, and*
- Recommendations regarding any improvements which might be necessary or desirable”*

# Executive Summary Pamphlet



- In 2024, the Council decided not to print copies of the full report
- Instead, a new Executive Summary pamphlet was created and printed
- Intended to provide a brief overview of EE in RI for a broad audience

# Executive Summary Pamphlet



## What is Energy Efficiency?

Energy efficiency is the practice of using *less energy* to achieve the *same result* or perform the same task.

### Examples of Energy Efficiency in the Home:



- INSULATION
- AIR SEALING
- WINDOWS & DOORS
- HEAT PUMPS
- THERMOSTATS
- WATER HEATING
- APPLIANCES
- ELECTRONICS
- LOW-FLOW FIXTURES

## Energy Efficiency Programs in Rhode Island

In Rhode Island, energy efficiency programs are offered by the state's regulated distribution utilities. The major investor-owned utility operating in the state, Rhode Island Energy, offers an array of energy saving programs that benefit all Rhode Islanders.

### Rhode Island Energy's efficiency programs:



- Are available to residential, commercial & industrial customers
- Offer financial incentives & rebates, loans & grants, and technical assistance
- Must pass cost-effective tests
- Have significant oversight & regulation
- Are funded through a small surcharge on all gas & electric bills

## Energy Efficiency Supports Economy, Jobs & Climate

Benefits of energy efficiency for the most recent year of data available (2023).



Energy efficiency programs in Rhode Island resulted in...  
**\$495 million**  
in total benefits to Rhode Islanders



Over their lifetime, energy efficiency measures installed this year will prevent more than...  
**609,000 metric tons**  
of greenhouse gas emissions



Equivalent to taking over...  
**145,000 cars**  
off the road for one year



Energy efficiency programs in Rhode Island created...  
**749 jobs**  
(full-time equivalent)



**626 companies**  
Delivered energy efficiency services this year

## What is the Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council?

### 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.

### ABOUT

The Energy Efficiency Council, formally the Energy and Efficiency Resource Management Council, was established by statute in 2006 to provide oversight of the state's ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs. The Council includes fifteen appointed members that represent the interests of homeowners, renters, workers, businesses, municipalities, and the environment.

Rhode Island has been a leader in energy efficiency in North America. The Council is a key driver of that success, providing technical expertise and informed stakeholder input that shapes energy strategy, planning, and implementation.

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.ri.gov](http://eec.ri.gov)



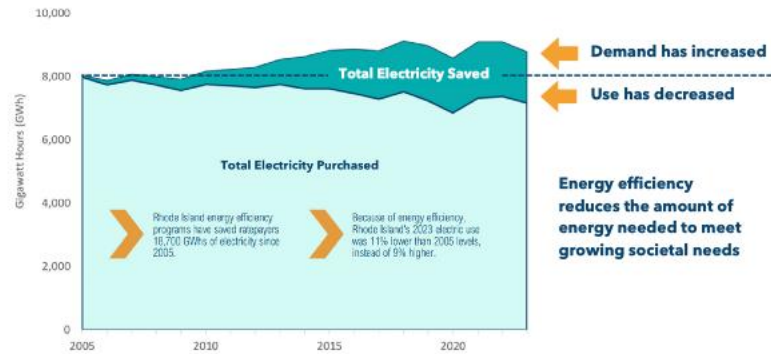
# Executive Summary Pamphlet



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS A RESOURCE

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS COST EFFECTIVE

Cumulative Impact of Energy Efficiency on RI Electric Use



To meet the growing needs for the services provided by energy systems, we can either generate more energy or use it more efficiently. Energy efficiency is capable of displacing energy generation and is often less expensive. It can also defer expensive upgrades to utility infrastructure, improve system reliability, reduce peak demand, and increase energy security.

Value of Energy Efficiency Program Benefits Compared to Costs



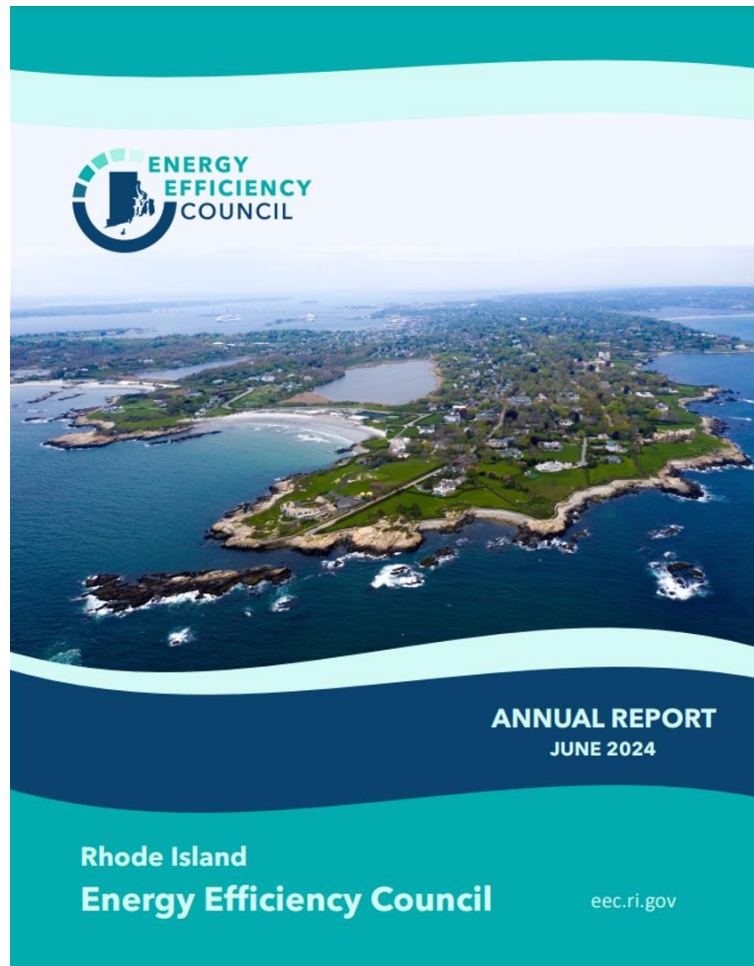
Over time, the cumulative benefits of energy efficiency programs far outweigh the costs of implementation. Since 2009, Rhode Island's ratepayer funded energy efficiency programs have realized about \$6 billion in societal benefits, compared to total program costs of about \$2 billion. These benefits include the need to generate and deliver less energy to customers, reduced emissions and associated environmental benefits, and improved reliability of our utility systems.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1** Promote energy efficiency as a primary tool to meet Act on Climate mandates
- 2** Support workforce development for energy efficiency and clean energy
- 3** Prioritize equitable access in energy efficiency programs
- 4** Coordinate and supplement statewide energy efficiency programming with federal funding opportunities
- 5** Maximize opportunities for weatherization and for addressing pre-weatherization barriers
- 6** Ensure the state's energy future through coordinated planning



# A New Approach



- Less overlap with RIE Year-End Report
- Written in consistent EEC voice
- Shorter, easier to digest
- Focus on:
  - EE highlights infographics
  - EEC policy recommendations
  - Climate implications

# EEC Policy Recommendations



## Refresher on the Council's 2024 Policy Recommendations:

1. Fully leverage energy efficiency to meet *Act on Climate* mandates
2. Support *workforce development* for clean energy and energy efficiency
3. Prioritize *equitable access* in energy programs
4. Coordinate and supplement efficiency programming with *federal funding*
5. Identify and maximize opportunities for weatherization and addressing *pre-weatherization barriers*
6. Ensure the State's *energy future*

More details on  
these in the  
Appendix!



# EEC Annual Report: Timeline



March 20 – Council Meeting: Development overview

April 10 – Distribute first draft for Council review

April 15 – Official due date

**April 17 – Council Meeting: Review first draft**

May 8 – Distribute final draft for Council review

**May 15 – Council Meeting: Vote on final report**

*Timing of final 2024 program results from RI Energy may be delayed due to data transition.*

*Council may choose to approve the report pending final numbers.*

# Council Member Discussion





# Appendix

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# EEC 2024 Policy Recommendation Detail



1

## PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AS A PRIMARY TOOL TO MEET ACT ON CLIMATE MANDATES

Energy efficiency is a key, foundational strategy to achieving the Act on Climate mandates and every effort must be made to coordinate the delivery and expand the programming of our energy efficiency portfolio. The energy efficiency programs that the EEC oversees should be integrated with Act on Climate initiatives to help achieve these Act on Climate mandates.

2

## SUPPORT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CLEAN ENERGY

A well-trained workforce to install robust energy efficiency measures and modernize heating and transportation equipment will be necessary to achieve the statewide decarbonization goals. Therefore, current efforts by the RI Department of Labor & Training, the Governor's Workforce Board, and others should be ramped up and focused on training for this work. Where possible, federal funding should be pursued in coordination with existing clean energy programs. Historically marginalized communities may offer unique opportunities to both train new workers in fields ripe for employment growth and also to better serve these marginalized communities moving forward. Supporting businesses in disadvantaged communities can create virtuous cycles as these businesses provide services to their neighbors and colleagues.

Furthermore, principles that informed high quality jobs recommendations in Climate Jobs Rhode Island's comprehensive policy platform and climate action plan<sup>3</sup> should be broadly applied to energy efficiency jobs. This would help to ensure that the energy efficiency workforce is focused not only on growth, but also on the quality of high-paying jobs.

# EEC 2024 Policy Recommendation Detail



3

## PRIORITIZE EQUITABLE ACCESS IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

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<sup>4</sup>. 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. Specifically, continued focus and resources should be placed on implementing strategies and providing new and different customer support mechanisms to realize increased participation in energy efficiency offerings from the Income Eligible and Multifamily sectors. Efficiency improvements in these sectors can have significant impacts on household living expenses and improve quality of life for all Rhode Islanders. Increased engagement with underserved small businesses will also help drive emissions and energy reductions in the state.

The passing of the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act has resulted in once-in-a-generation investment in energy efficiency, decarbonization, and workforce development. These funding opportunities should be maximized for Rhode Islanders to provide a significant boost to the clean energy economy and expand upon the existing programming in the state.

Finally, President Biden's Executive Order 14008 set a goal that a minimum of 40% of the overall benefits of federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities overburdened by pollution. Aligning state energy programming with this goal can provide a framework for ensuring that disadvantaged and historically marginalized communities are able to access and benefit from state energy programs.



# EEC 2024 Policy Recommendation Detail



4

## COORDINATE AND SUPPLEMENT STATEWIDE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMMING WITH FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The passing of the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act has resulted in once-in-a-generation investment in energy efficiency, decarbonization, and workforce development. These funding opportunities should be maximized for Rhode Islanders to provide a significant boost to the clean energy economy and expand upon the existing programming in the state. These funding streams should be treated as additional and complementary, not as a replacement or reason to reduce the current energy efficiency programs.

5

## MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WEATHERIZATION AND FOR ADDRESSING PRE-WEATHERIZATION BARRIERS

Weatherization, including improving insulation and air sealing, is an essential component for improving energy efficiency in Rhode Island. Weatherization reduces burden on the energy grid, improves the comfort of homes and buildings for occupants, and saves money for residents and building owners. Pre-weatherization barriers such as health and safety concerns, including asbestos, vermiculite insulation (which may contain asbestos), and knob-and-tube wiring, can all prevent weatherization projects from moving forward. These issues are particularly prominent in Rhode Island, which has one of the oldest housing stocks in the nation. Identifying funding and supporting a workforce to address these barriers will be essential for weatherizing homes and buildings in Rhode Island and to help decarbonize the building sector.

# EEC 2024 Policy Recommendation Detail



6

## ENSURE THE STATE'S ENERGY FUTURE THROUGH COORDINATED PLANNING

With the current State Energy Plan nearing its ten-year mark, Rhode Island is in need of an updated, comprehensive strategy to advance electrification and meet its climate mandates. At the writing of this report, the Public Utilities Commission is hosting an ongoing conversation among key stakeholders to explore the future of the natural gas distribution system. The EEC looks forward to reviewing the results of this analysis. The Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council is also developing plans for decarbonizing the statewide economy by 2050. These economywide analyses will be critical for guiding the future of the energy systems in Rhode Island. Evaluation and alignment of the delivered fuels sector will also be essential for achieving the mandates of the 2021 Act on Climate.