2025 EEC Annual Report

FIRST DRAFT

April 3, 2025

Helping Rhode Islanders save on energy costs.

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.

Rhode Island Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908
eec.ri.gov

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RI EEC 2024 Annual Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS PAYING OFF FOR RHODE ISLANDERS

In 2023, energy efficiency programs in Rhode Island created…
749 jobs
(full-time equivalent)

626 companies
delivered energy efficiency services in 2023

In 2023, energy efficiency programs resulted in…
$495 million
in total benefits to Rhode Islanders

Over their lifetime, energy efficiency measures installed in 2023 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

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 Efforts with Federal Funding Opportunities
5. Maximize Opportunities for Weatherization and for Addressing Pre-Weatherization Barriers
6. Ensure the State's Clean Energy Future through Coordinated Planning

The **Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council (EEC)** is a group of Governor-appointed stakeholders that work to ensure all Rhode Islanders receive the maximum benefits of energy efficiency. Learn more at eec.ri.gov.

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ABOUT THE EEC

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.

MEMBERS (as of May 2025)

The EEC consists of fifteen members that represent the interests of key stakeholder groups and interests including homeowners, renters, workers, businesses, municipalities, and the environment. Council members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate and serve voluntarily. All members of the public are encouraged to attend the Council's publicly noticed monthly meetings held year-round. For more information, visit eec.ri.gov

PURPOSE

Rhode Island is 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 in Rhode Island. 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.

Maximizing Program Benefits for All Rhode Islanders

The Energy Efficiency Council (EEC) has been providing an integrated, comprehensive, public, stakeholder-driven organizational structure to secure for Rhode Island's energy consumers the economic and environmental benefits of

Voting Members

Harry Oakley, Chair, Small Commercial and Industrial Users
Director of Energy, Sustainability, Procurement, & Corporate Facilities, Ocean State Job Lot

Peter Gill Case, Vice Chair, Energy Design and Code
Principal, Truth Box, Inc.

Sue AnderBois, Environmental Issues
Director of Climate and Government Relations,
The Nature Conservancy

Dave Caldwell, Energy Efficiency Education and Employment Tracking
Vice President, Caldwell & Johnson, Inc.

Priscilla De La Cruz, Residential Users
Director of Sustainability, City of Providence

Joe Garlick, Small Non-Profit Instituti
Executive Director, NeighborWorks B

Bob Izzo, Large Commercial & Indust
Director, Energy & Utility Managemen

Thomas Magliocchetti, Large Non-Pr
Consultant, Joint Commission Resources, Inc.

Kurt Teichert, Energy Regulation and Law
Senior Lecturer in Environmental Studies,
Brown University

Non-Voting, Ex-Officio Members

Brett Feldman, Utilities
Customer Energy Management, Rhode Island Energy

Christopher Kearns, Executive Director, Energy Efficiency Council
Interim Commissioner, RI Office of Energy Resources

John Santoro, Delivered Fuels
CEO/Owner, Santoro Family of Companies

Appointments Pending
Voting Member Low Income Users
Ex-Officio Member Representing Utilities

Deleted: The Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council (EEC)[1] was established by statute in 2006 to provide oversight of the state's ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs through stakeholder representation and expert technical evaluation. The Council supports the state's climate mandates and works to empower all Rhode Islanders to receive the full benefits of energy efficiency.¶

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COUNCIL

energy efficiency since the Council's formation in 2006 under amendments to R.I.G.L. § 42-140.1. This law is known as Least Cost Procurement because it requires the state to procure all energy efficiency that is less than the cost of other energy supply.

In representing small and large businesses, non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters, and municipalities and government, the EEC oversees highly successful programs that allow Rhode Islanders to access energy efficiency instead of having to purchase more costly energy supply. A valuable additional outcome of these programs is to also support a growing industry of Rhode Island energy efficiency service and product suppliers, which support local job growth and in-state financial investments.

The effects of energy efficiency in the last decade now cumulatively account for approximately 20% of Rhode Island's electricity needs. The state's consistent investments in energy efficiency have resulted in Rhode Islanders paying half as much for its energy supply than they otherwise would have (see Figure 1).

Rhode Island consumers are the focus of Least Cost Procurement, so ensuring the consumer voice in energy efficiency procurement decisions is critically important. The EEC, assisted by its expert consultant team, provides meaningful input into Rhode Island Energy's efficiency procurement plans, and adds significant stability to investment decisions. The EEC's model for structured stakeholder participation has been successfully deployed annually in a nationally recognized process to set appropriate energy saving targets and then establish implementation plans that are equitable, cost-efficient, and cost-effective to maximize benefits for all Rhode Islanders.

How Energy Efficiency is Funded

Energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way to reduce energy use and address climate change in Rhode Island. The funds that enable the implementation of the state's efficiency programs are collected from ratepayers via the System Benefits Charge (SBC) on electric and gas bills.[2] Thorough and careful evaluation, planning, and oversight ensure the funds support cost-effective energy efficiency that is less than the cost of supply, as required by the Least Cost Procurement law. Sustained and robust efficiency funding is important to ensuring Rhode Islanders continue to benefit from strong efficiency programs for years to come.

Energy Savings Targets

Every three years, the EEC is required to develop targets for annual electric and natural gas reductions as a result of energy efficiency programs administered by Rhode Island Energy. The targets support the development of Rhode Island Energy's triennial and annual energy efficiency program plans by providing guidance on potentially available cost-effective efficiency resources in the state. The EEC works with its consultant team to conduct in-depth analysis, research, and stakeholder engagement to establish achievable, cost-effective levels of energy efficiency, which are then used to inform proposed energy savings targets. Once approved by the Council, the targets are submitted to the PUC for final review and approval. Once established, the targets are used to guide the development of the ensuing triennial and annual energy efficiency program plans.

[2] Delivered fuels customers do not pay into the Systems Benefit Charge.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY 101

WHAT IS ENERGY EFFICIENCY?

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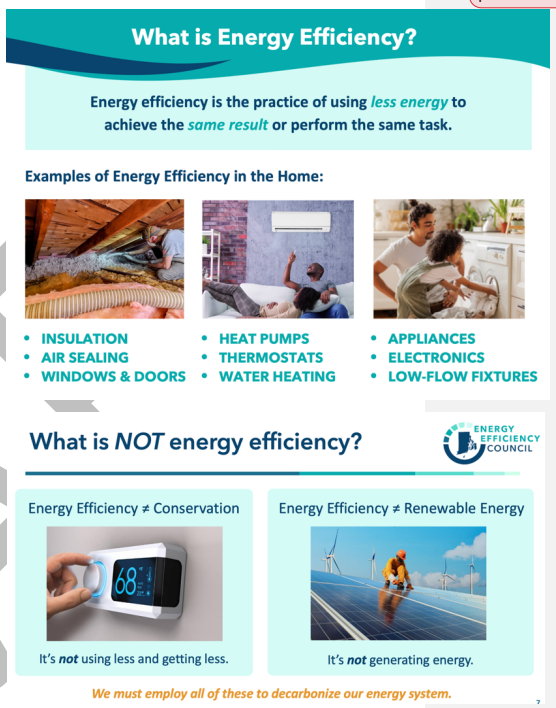
Energy efficiency is about using less energy to keep our spaces comfortable, healthy, and affordable. It's also a critical element in addressing climate change.

Cost – When we use less energy, we can lower our monthly energy bills. Adding insulation to walls and attics reduces heat loss and gain, so heating and cooling systems don't work as hard. Sealing gaps around windows and doors prevents energy waste. Air source heat pumps use less energy to keep your home a consistent temperature, minimizing waste and cutting costs.

Comfort & Health – Sealing gaps and adding insulation eliminate drafts, prevent uncomfortable temperature changes, and reduce strain on heating and cooling systems. Proper ventilation and air sealing reduce outdoor pollutants and allergens from entering the home. Air source heat pumps improve air circulation and keep air cleaner without sacrificing efficiency. Additionally, these upgrades control moisture, preventing dampness and mold growth, which improves indoor air quality and overall health.

Climate – Climate change is impacting Rhode Island communities now. We're already seeing sea level rise, shorter winters, hotter summers, and more extreme weather events like intense storms and rainfall. Reducing energy use is critical for addressing climate change and the serious impacts it's having on our daily lives, health, environment, and economy. By taking steps to make our homes more energy efficient, we can all help build a clean energy future for Rhode Island. Climate change is a complex challenge and it's going to take a wide variety of solutions. The foundation of climate change mitigation is reducing our overall energy consumption through energy efficiency.



*"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**

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

See Programs section for more information and 2024 program performance.

LEARN MORE / RESOURCES

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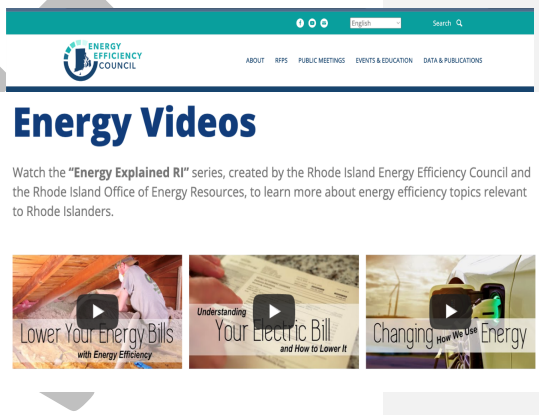
Energy Explained RI Videos

The "Energy Explained RI" video series takes a closer look at some of the energy issues that impact our lives here in Rhode Island. Brought to you by the Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council and the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources.

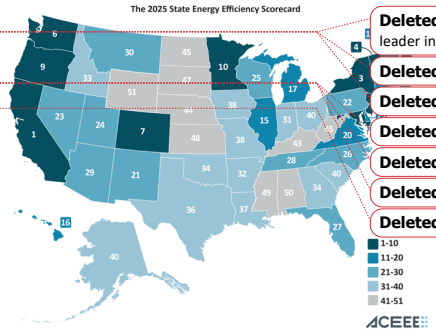
- Lower Your Energy Bills with Energy Efficiency
- Understanding Your Electric Bill and How to Lower It
- Changing the Way We Use Energy
- Transitioning to All Electric Everything
- Using Demand Response for Clean, Affordable Power



ACHIEVEMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

ACEEE STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

For over a decade, Rhode Island consistently ranked among the top 10 states according to the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy's (ACEEE) State Energy Efficiency Scorecard. In 2025, Rhode Island's rank has dropped notably after recent methodological changes in scoring, including doubling total available points for finer scoring granularity and increasing the equity emphasis by 10%.



The state's comparatively modest progress in tracking detailed community-level data and delivering equitable benefits through utility programs has become more apparent, highlighting areas where other leading states have gained an advantage. This shift underscores a clear opportunity for Rhode Island to enhance its equity-driven initiatives, thereby aligning more closely with updated scoring priorities.

Specifically, Rhode Island lagged in utility program performance, scoring only 5% of total points in the Utility category, compared to top states scoring 7% or more. This decline primarily stems from Rhode Island's missed scoring opportunities in electricity savings and energy efficiency resource standards, areas where leading states have demonstrated notably stronger performance.

Furthermore, shifts in sector weighting highlighted Rhode Island's stagnation in key areas such as existing building energy efficiency standards and transportation policies. While the revised scorecard metrics reward proactive policies for existing building electrification and performance upgrades, Rhode Island did not pursue these strategies as aggressively as its peer states, leading to its drop from previous rankings.

Additionally, the state's unchanged position in transportation policy since 2022, coupled with other states' adoption of more ambitious freight and electrification plans, contributed significantly to Rhode Island's fall out of the top ten. Rhode Island's reduction in ranking highlights key opportunities for innovative, equitable, and effective policies that re-establish its competitiveness among leading states. The full report can be accessed at https://www.aceee.org/state-policy/scorecard.

Table 2. Summary of State Scores in the 2025 ACEEE State Energy Efficiency Scorecard

Rank	State	Utility and public benefits (29 pts.)	Transportation policies (26 pts.)	Building energy efficiency policies (24 pts.)	State government initiatives (9 pts.)	Industrial policies (6 pts.)	Appliance efficiency standards (6 pts.)	Total score (100 pts.)	Change in rank from 2022
1	California	26.5	25	21	9	6	6	93.5	0
2	Massachusetts	20.5	22.5	20	9	6	3	81	0
3	New York	21.5	23.5	16.5	9	6	3	79.5	0
4	Maryland	18.5	22.5	21	9	5	1	77	3
4	Vermont	23.5	20	17.5	8	3	5	77	0
6	Washington	17.5	19.5	19	9	6	4	75	5
7	Colorado	17.5	21	19	5.5	4	6	73	6
8	New Jersey	23.5	19	16	9	2	3	72.5	6
9	Oregon	16	20	17.5	9	4	5	71.5	2
10	Minnesota	23	18	14.5	6.5	6	2	70	0
11	Maine	18.5	16.5	15.5	9	6	4	69.5	–6
12	District of Columbia	14	20	18.5	7.5	3	3	66.5	–6
13	Connecticut	18.5	16.5	15.5	9	6	0	65.5	–4
13	Rhode Island	21	17.5	10	9	4	4	65.5	–6
15	Illinois	20	12.5	16	5.5	1	2	57	1
16	Hawaii	16	15.5	9	7	4	5	56.5	1

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Deleted: ranked #7 overall, #1 in state-led initiatives, and #4 in utility programs. The state received recognition for its established policy framework, incentives, and standards that drive savings through utility programs. The report also calls out Rhode Island's efficient new construction program and improved sustainability in the transportation sector. The next Scorecard is expected to be published in 2024.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS A RESOURCE

To meet the growing needs for 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.

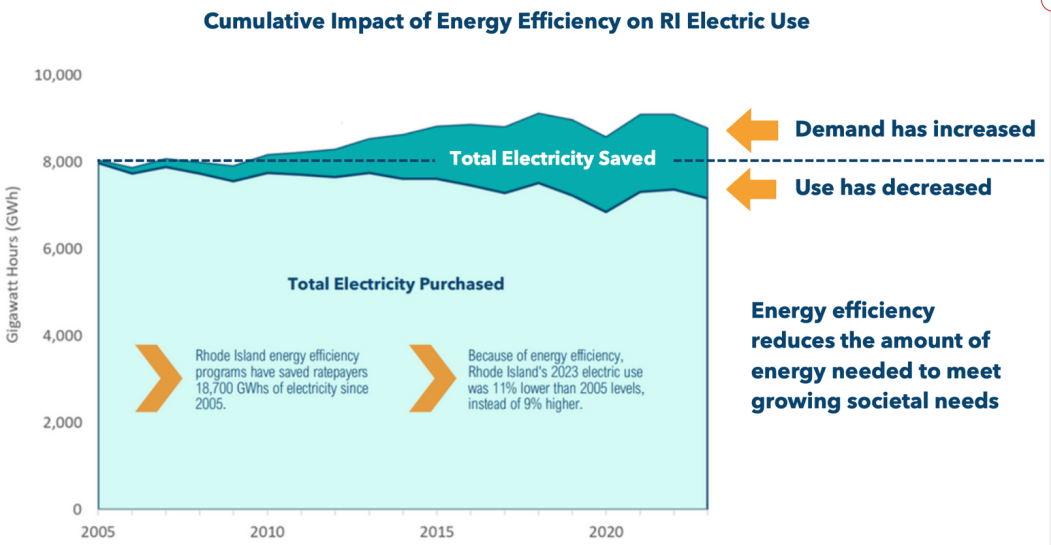

Figure 1. Cumulative Impact of Efficiency Investments on RI Electric Supply Requirements (2005-2023). *Percentages represent the percent of load that cumulative electric savings since 2005 are covering.*

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Deleted: Since 2005, Rhode Island consumers in Rhode Island Energy's service territory have purchased over XXX,000 GWhs of electricity. In that same period of time, ratepayer funded energy efficiency programs have saved Rhode Island consumers about XX,000 GWhs of electricity. ¶ ... [2]

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS COST EFFECTIVE

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Energy efficiency can directly lower energy bills for consumers who participate in programs, but it also has much broader benefits. Energy efficiency is one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy costs for all consumers, support the local economy, and combat climate change.

When we use less energy, we actually lower energy costs for everyone. By reducing the state's demand for power, for example, we reduce the impact of increasing energy prices, and those savings are passed on to all electric customers. Additionally, using less energy results in less strain on energy generation and distribution infrastructure, which lowers the costs of maintaining and expanding it – costs that the utility passes on to ratepayers. This effect also increases the energy system's reliability and security.

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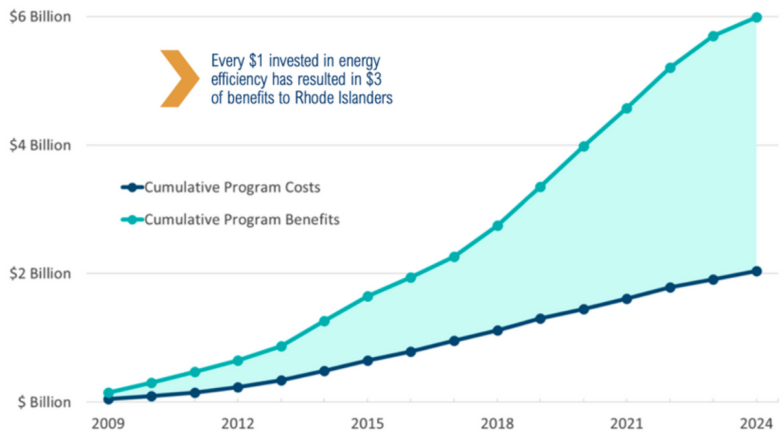
Value of Energy Efficiency Program Benefits Compared to Costs



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.

Due to the nature of the work, energy efficiency programs are implemented by local workforces, which means these programs support jobs and the economy. Just as importantly, efficiency is a critical tool for addressing climate change and the resulting economic, health, and environmental impacts.

Achievement of the energy savings goals set in the 2025 Energy Efficiency Program Plan will push the total realized benefits to over $5.5 billion.

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POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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R.I.G.L. § 42-140.1-5 requires that the EEC "submit to the joint committee on energy an annual report… regarding the activities of the Council, its assessment of energy issues, the status of system reliability, energy efficiency and conservation procurement, and its recommendations regarding any improvements which might be necessary or desirable." The EEC submits the following recommendations that will support energy and utility cost reductions for Ocean State residents and businesses; support industry and employment across the state's clean energy sector; and further Rhode Island's position as a national leader in energy efficiency and resource conservation.

1. FULLY LEVERAGE ENERGY EFFICIENCY 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 CLEAN ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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[3] 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.

3. PRIORITIZE EQUITABLE ACCESS IN ENERGY 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.[4] 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

[3] Available online at: https://www.cjnrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Rhode-Island-Report-Final-2.3-Compressed.pdf

[4] Please see the Equity Working Group's Final Report for 2023 for additional information, available online at: https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2023-10/2335-RIE-Attachment11_Bates.pdf.

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.

4. COORDINATE AND SUPPLEMENT EFFICIENCY PROGRAMMING WITH FEDERAL FUNDING

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. IDENTIFY AND MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WEATHERIZATION AND 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.

6. ENSURE THE STATE'S CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

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 EERMC 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.

EEC PRIORITIES FOR THE 2025 ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SYSTEM RELIABILITY PROCUREMENT ANNUAL PLANS

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As part of its fulfillment of the roles and responsibilities legislated in R.I.G.L. §42-140.1, the Energy Efficiency Council (EEC or Council) provides the following input and direction in the form of Priorities[5] to support development of the 2026 Annual Energy Efficiency Program Plan (EE Plan) for submittal to the RI Public Utilities Commission (PUC) by October 1, 2025 by Rhode Island Energy. The EEC also has clearly defined responsibilities in the PUC-issued Least Cost Procurement Standards (LCP Standards) to both support the development of the EE Plan and to vote on whether to endorse the EE Plan to the PUC. Should the EEC vote not to endorse the EE Plan, the EEC is then directed to document reasons for that decision and submit them to the PUC for its consideration.

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COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR THE 2026 EE PLAN

The following priorities represent the core, Council-driven focus areas for the 2026 Plan. These maintain, update, or build upon the priorities and priority strategies developed for the 2024-2026 Three Year Plan and 2024 and 2025 Annual Plans. The Council's key priority areas for the 2026 Plan direct the Company to:

SUPPORT THE MANDATES OF THE ACT ON CLIMATE

The Company will…

- Set 2026 EE Plan savings goals consistently with the Act on Climate to ensure EE programs contribute an appropriate share of carbon emissions reductions.
- Reduce investment in fossil fuel heating equipment and increase investment in weatherization.
- Set specific goals for replacing electric resistance space heating and hot water equipment with heat pump technologies.
- Design and implement programs that take into full consideration the insights and outcomes from the Future of Gas Docket at the PUC.

SET AMBITIOUS ENERGY SAVINGS GOALS

The Company will…

- Set ambitious Annual Plan goals for 2026 that meet EEC-recommended targets8 or explain any gaps between the goals and targets, and signal to the industry the intent to grow energy efficiency programs and participation. Where gaps do exist, the Company should clearly document the incremental savings that could be obtained with a specified incremental budget allocation if such an allocation were allowed. This would help assess the tradeoffs between further energy efficiency budget allocation and the benefits that would accrue to Rhode Islanders from such an incremental allocation.
- Increase emphasis on improving designs for programs with a pattern of recent underperformance.
- Demonstrate a clear growth trajectory for successful programs that are highly cost-effective, lower than the cost of supply, and provide net utility system benefits.
- Document measures and/or approaches that it considered during plan development but ultimately did not include in the Plan for reasons including, but not limited to, issues with a measure and/or approach being able to screen cost-effectiveness tests.

INCREASE PROGRAM PARTICIPATION BY HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

The Company will…

[5] Available online at:

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- Continue to gather and report on equity metrics that have been established through work with the Equity Working Group. The Company should also review the previously identified metrics that are not currently being tracked and reported on with the Equity Working Group to determine whether or not they should be added to the equity metrics that are being reported on.
- Implement recommendations of the Equity Working Group.
- Identify clear and objective determinations of success, and regularly report progress in achieving EWG recommendations and other strategies to increase participation by historically underserved customers.
- Increase financial investments in serving historically underserved populations, including enhanced financial incentives to those customers across efficiency offerings.
- Identify and implement program improvements that will facilitate ease of participation, including through streamlining of participation steps, documentation requirements, and income verification processes.
- Enhance marketing and outreach to underserved populations.
- Develop and implement a targeting framework that focuses on all communities with high proportions of underserved and environmental justice populations and historical participation lower than average statewide participation levels.
- Enhance and increase municipal and other community-based partnerships, particularly to include partnerships with underserved communities.
- Use findings from the 2023 Small Business Process Evaluation to increase participation by small and microbusiness customers (less than 100,000 kWh in annual electric consumption) who account for about 90% of the entire commercial & industrial (C&I) customer demographic.
- Contract a qualified third-party vendor to develop a Language Access Plan (LAP) that sets forth how the Company will provide services to individuals who are non-English speaking or have limited English proficiency at each step of the customer journey.
- Target workforce development efforts to serving contractors in underserved communities (detailed recommendations on workforce development covered in separate priority). RI Energy should actively coordinate with state entities to leverage available state/federal funds and workforce development offerings.

CONDUCT TARGETED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Company will…

- Implement recommendations of the Equity Working Group related to workforce development activities.
- Deliver targeted workforce development for small/minority- and women-owned business enterprise (MWBE) contractors.
- Deliver workforce development focused on important technologies for meeting statewide climate goals, maximizing ratepayer benefits, and controlling ratepayer costs.
- Demonstrate responsiveness to recommendations from its Workforce Needs Assessment, completed in 2023.
- Increase investment in workforce development to expand training for existing workers, mitigate barriers to entry for new workers, and advertise training/job opportunities for workers.

BASELINE EXPECTATIONS FOR THE 2026 EE PLAN

The following are priorities that have been recategorized as baseline expectations that Council expects will be addressed by the Company. These baseline expectations include:

- Comply with Least Cost Procurement (LCP) Standards
- Support the Goals of the Act on Climate
- Incorporate stakeholder input

- Ensure an effective and efficient Plan development and review process
- Set ambitious energy savings goals
- Increase participation in underserved communities
- Conduct targeted workforce development
- Utilize the framework for justifying programs that exceed cost of supply, but support other areas of LCP Standards
- Ensure robust coordination on Federal and State funding opportunities
- Update the carbon accounting methodology used in the EE Plans

Deleted: Comply with Least Cost Procurement Standards ... [3]

SYSTEM RELIABILITY PROCUREMENT (SRP) PLAN PRIORITIES

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Along with Energy Efficiency Plans, Rhode Island Energy submits System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Plans, which outline strategies for addressing the reliability of the state's electric and gas infrastructure (see page 44). The Council's key priority areas for the 2026 SRP Plan direct the Company to:

Deleted: Rhode Island Energy will demonstrate continued responsiveness to Council and other stakeholder input, including during the implementation of the 2024-2026 SRP Three Year Plan.

- Ensure responsiveness to council input
- Support stakeholder engagement
- Achieve continued methodological development
- Ensure robust non-pipes program implementation
- Ensure robust ongoing active demand management programs in rhode island

Deleted: Rhode Island Energy will submit any draft SRP Investment Proposals to the Council at least six weeks prior to the Company's intended filing date for any such proposals. ... [4]

2024 ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM RESULTS

Add introductory language explaining that this section summarizes the results of the 2024 energy efficiency program offerings through Rhode Island Energy. For more information, refer to Rhode Island Energy's 2024 Year End Report (link).

	Residential (Market Rate)	Residential (Income Eligible)	Commercial & Industrial
Annual MWh Saved			
Lifetime MWh Saved			
Annual MMBtu Saved			
Lifetime MMBtu Saved			
Metric Tons of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided			
Program Participants			
Million in Lifetime Electric Bill Savings			
Million in Lifetime Gas Bill Savings			
Million in Total Economic Benefits			

Table 3. Summary of 2024 Energy Efficiency Program Results

MARKET RATE RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

Rhode Island Energy offers comprehensive energy efficiency solutions for all Rhode Island residential customers. The goals of these offerings and services are to educate residents on saving energy and reducing energy bills while improving the comfort in their homes. The energy efficiency solutions concentrate on creating energy efficient homes through education and energy-efficient products; facilitating market transformation for efficient products and zero-energy homes and buildings; and educating Rhode Islanders on energy efficiency.

EnergyWise Single Family

In 2024, the EnergyWise Single Family program achieved electric savings of 15,596 net lifetime MWh (92% of target) and gas savings of 524,666 net lifetime MMBtu (107% of target).

The EnergyWise Single Family (EW SF) program offers comprehensive energy efficiency services for single family (1-4 unit) homes. The program uses a whole-house approach to identify energy saving opportunities in all major energy systems and end uses, including heating, cooling, and water heating

Commented [RS12]: To be updated with final RIE results.

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Deleted: RI Energy continues its work to get the word out about the residential programs available to customers. In 2023, Rhode Island Energy attended and hosted several local events to promote efficiency, including:¶ ... [5]

Deleted: *Program*

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systems, as well as water saving measures, plug loads, and building envelope leaks (air and thermal barriers). EW SF provides in-home services in two phases: home energy assessment and weatherization.

Multifamily

In 2024, the EnergyWise Multifamily program achieved 3,466 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (37% of target) and 27,929 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (25% of target).

The Multifamily program offers comprehensive energy services for multifamily customers (buildings with 5+ dwelling units) including: Energy assessments; Incentives for efficient electricity, natural gas, or delivered fuels equipment including heating, cooling and domestic hot water systems, cooling equipment, thermostats, smart strips, water saving measures, common-area lighting, and eligible air source heat pumps; Weatherization measures including air sealing and insulation where eligible and applicable; Coordination of all services for multifamily properties that participate in the market rate and income eligible multifamily programs.

Residential High Efficiency Heating and Hot Water

In 2024, the Residential High Efficiency Heating and Hot Water program achieved 15,024 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (47% of target).

The High-Efficiency Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and Hot Water program promotes and incentivizes the installation of high-efficiency electric and gas equipment through the following rebates and services:

- Customer rebates on energy-efficient equipment: Boilers, Combined condensing boilers, Furnaces, ENERGY STAR Most Efficient windows, Hot water heaters, Air source heat pumps (central and ductless), Air source heat pump water heaters, Smart thermostats, Water saving devices, Boiler ECM pumps.
- Contractor services: Quality installation verification, contractor training, contractor incentives, upstream incentives (discount taken at the distributor level)

The HVAC and Hot Water program is cross promoted through the following programs: EnergyWise, Multifamily, Residential New Construction, and Home Energy Reports. Training elements and best practices of the program are also provided to the IES Program to maintain consistency in contractor skills for accurate sizing, design, installation, and performance verification of high-efficiency HVAC systems.

Residential Consumer Products

In 2023, the Residential Consumer Products program achieved 15,024 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (47% of target).

The Residential Consumer Products (RCP) program incorporates the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ENERGY STAR categories of consumer appliances, select building products, and some energy-saving items not included by the EPA. The largest savings elements of the RCP program come from recycling older refrigerators, dehumidifiers, and freezers.

Consumers can purchase products at a local retailer, online at the RI Energy Marketplace, or through any online retailer (if the product meets product specifications, and there is a receipt). The RI Energy Marketplace is a streamlined portal through which customers can buy efficient products with the rebate already applied, eliminating the need for the customer to apply for the rebate post-sale. Most products on the Marketplace are ones that can be installed by the customer. In some instances, products on the Marketplace are not incentivized. However, the Company lists these products on the Marketplace to provide pre-vetted products

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Deleted: ***Residential New Construction Program*** ¶

Moved down [1]: *In 2023, the Residential New Construction program achieved 10,324net lifetime MWh of electric savings (79% of target) and 57,303 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (98% of target).*¶

Deleted: The Residential New Construction Program (RNC) benefits new construction and major renovation of single-family and multi-family homes for market rate and income eligible customers. The program elements include plan review, energy modeling, in-field technical assistance, insulation and air sealing inspection, third-party blower-door and duct-blaster testing (building performance testing), a HERS (Home Energy Rating System) Index rating and certification, energy performance-based incentives, complimentary WaterSense® showerheads, and optional support for projects seeking additional certifications such as ENERGY STAR® Homes, DOE Zero Energy Ready, Passive House/PHIUS, LEED-H and Living Building Challenge. In 2023, 470 housing units were built to program standards, which represents a 9% increase over 2022 year-end totals. ¶ ... [7]

Deleted: ***Program***

to narrow down the selection for consumers and help them avoid potentially unreliable or untested products available through other online retailers.

Residential New Construction

In 2024, the Residential New Construction program achieved 10,324net lifetime MWh of electric savings (79% of target) and 57,303 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (98% of target).

The Residential New Construction (RNC) program offers financial incentives and no-cost education, training and technical support to builders and homeowners to promote the construction of high performing energy-efficient single family, multifamily and income eligible homes. The program helps residential new construction and major renovation projects meet high energy performance standards and provides education and training support to builders, designers, tradespeople, and code officials.

Home Energy Reports (HER) Program

In 2024, The Home Energy Reports program achieved 25,932net lifetime MWh of electric savings (107% of target) and 106,308 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (116% of target).

The Home Energy Reports (HER) program is a statewide energy efficiency offering that provides benefits for Rhode Island residential customers through the mailing and emailing of customer-specific energy usage reports and insights. While over 300,000 customers receive home energy reports (i.e., the treatment group) by way of direct mail and/or e-mail, all account holders have access to insights into their energy consumption via the web tools located on the Company's website. The program has evolved since 2013 from offering only mailed insights to now being integrated into the Company's website with online assessment tools, sending Non-Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) High Usage Alerts, and utilizing segmentation to target different populations with relevant messaging.

INCOME ELIGIBLE SERVICES

In 2024, the Income Eligible Services Program achieved 41,100 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (88.5% of target) and 322,751 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (94.5% of target).

Income Eligible Single Family

The Income Eligible Single Family (IE SF) program offers a comprehensive, no-cost[7], in-home (or virtual) home energy assessment services to increase comfort in the home and decrease a customer's energy costs.

COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL & PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Commercial and Industrial (C&I) programs drive the implementation of energy efficiency projects that minimize or reduce energy consumption and help Rhode Island businesses, industries, institutions, and government agencies save on their utility bills. Energy efficiency programs also help C&I customers reduce their operations and maintenance (O&M) costs, meet corporate sustainability goals, improve indoor air quality, and protect the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants. The Company's C&I programs offer incentives, rebates, financing, and technical assistance to customers across the state who want to save money and reduce their building's overall energy consumption footprint.

[7] 100% incentive via the systems benefit charge (SBC) that funds all Rhode Island Energy's energy efficiency programs. Customer incurs no cost for audit, weatherization, or equipment replacement. Income Eligible (IE) is funded roughly 20% by IE SBC and 80% by a mix of C&I and market rate SBC.

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Deleted: *The ENERGY STAR® Consumer Products Program promotes the purchase of high efficiency household appliances and electronics such as dehumidifiers, pool pumps, and room air cleaners. Throughout the year, the Residential Consumer Products Lead Vendor continued to promote the energy efficient products offered under the Rhode Island Energy program by staffing educational tables at big box retailers such as Lowe's, Home Depot, and Walmart. These informal events provide an opportunity for RI Energy customers to ask questions and gain information about a broad range of energy efficiency programs.* ¶ ... [8]

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Deleted: The Home Energy Reports (HER) Program encourages energy efficient actions through print and email reports. Each communication channel displays energy consumption patterns, energy reduction goals, and comparisons to similarly sized and heated homes. In 2023, Home Energy Reports provided energy efficiency messaging on the following topics: high-efficiency heating systems, electric heat pump water heating, ENERGY STAR® efficient room air conditioners, cold-climate heat pumps, air purifiers, smart thermostats, and home energy assessments. ¶ ... [9]

Deleted: The Multifamily Program provides comprehensive energy efficiency solutions to market rate and income eligible gas and electric multifamily (properties with five or more units) customers. In 2023, the Lead Vendor participated in several trainings and courses including Fujitsu Variable Refrigerant Flow training, Advanced Energy Auditing course by UTS Energy Engineering, SRGI heat pump training, Building Performance Institute (BPI) seminar for heat pump water heaters, Galetti heat pump chiller seminar, and Mitsubishi's manufacturer heat pump training. Below are a couple of examples of projects completed throughout the year: ¶

Deleted: <#>**Regency Plaza Apartments in Providence:** upgrades included water source heat pumps, variable frequency drives, and wall and pipe insulation. The electrical incentive for this project was $110,463 with an estimated 1,171,500 net lifetime kWh savings, and the gas incentive was $69,675.92 with an estimated 113,098 net lifetime therms savings.¶ ... [10]

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Deleted: The Income Eligible Services (IES) program offers no-cost energy assessments and energy efficiency upgrades to residential income eligible customers without any financial contribution from the customer. Income Eligible Services are delivered by Rhode Island's six local Community Action Program (CAP) agencies to customers who meet one of the following criteria: ¶ ... [11]

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Rhode Island Energy offers four Commercial and Industrial (C&I) energy efficiency programs. Depending on a customer's energy consumption and demand, they could be eligible to participate in one or more of the following programs.

Large C&I New Construction Program

In 2024, the C&I New Construction program achieved 126,976 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (81% of target) and 689,302 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (96% of target).

The New Construction Program offers financial incentives and technical assistance to customers, design professionals, developers, and vendors to encourage energy efficiency in new construction, major renovation, planned replacement of aging equipment, and replacement of failed equipment projects.

Through the program, design professionals are eligible to receive technical assistance to conduct energy modeling and analysis for new construction projects. Owner's design teams are offered incentives for their time and effort to meet program requirements. The program promotes and incentivizes the installation of high efficiency equipment in existing facilities during remodeling projects or for equipment failure and replacement. Since customers are more likely to install energy-efficient equipment at the time of construction or equipment replacement, the program offers incentives to ensure customers make the investment immediately rather than doing so at a greater cost later.

Large C&I Retrofit Program

In 2024, the Large C&I Retrofit program achieved 259,740 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (106% of target) and 691,972 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (68% of target).

All commercial, industrial, and institutional customers are eligible to participate in the Retrofit Program. The program incentivizes the replacement of existing equipment and systems with high efficiency alternatives such as lighting, HVAC systems, motors, thermal envelope measures and custom measures in existing buildings. Technical assistance is offered to customers to help them identify energy-saving opportunities.

The program's incentives help C&I customers in defraying part of the material and labor costs associated with the installation of energy efficiency measures. In addition, the Company offers education and training, such as the Builder Operator Certification training, to support the adoption of energy-efficient equipment and practices.

Small Business Direct Install Program

In 2024, the Small Business Direct Install program achieved 47,842 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (83% of target) and 82,957net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (64% of target).

The Small Business Program is a retrofit offering that provides turn-key efficiency solutions to customers who use less than 1.5 million kWh per year. Through the program, a free on-site energy assessment is performed, and customers receive a customized report detailing recommended energy-efficient improvements.

From local pizzerias to small convenience stores, the Small Business Program serves mall businesses of all customer types, buildings, and sizes. The program pays up to 70 percent of installation and equipment costs. Provided funds are available, customers can finance the remaining costs of the project for up to 60 months (typically 24) interest free on their electric bill using the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund.

C&I Multifamily

In 2024, the C&I Multifamily program achieved 47,842 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (83% of target) and 82,957net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (64% of target).

Deleted: *<#>**C&I New Construction**: Provides offerings that target ground up new construction, major renovations, tenant fit-outs, and end-of-life replacement equipment.¶* ... [12]

Deleted: *<#>**The C&I sector encompasses a diverse and complex set of customers. Each C&I customer is assigned one of four dedicated account representatives who work for Rhode Island Energy and help connect customers with energy efficiency resources, vendors, and incentives. Rhode Island Energy leverages a market sector approach by assigning an account representative that has experience in the customer's specific industry, such as manufacturing and industrial facilities, chain restaurants, grocery stores, food services, and small businesses. This approach provides highly customized efficiency solutions that align with the customers' needs, thereby increasing program participation. All of the C&I Programs offer a "custom pathway" for energy efficiency measures that are unique or less common in our customers' facilities. These projects are evaluated using the custom screening tool to determine if they are cost-effective and then can proceed. Customers in market segments not targeted through industry-specific initiatives, such as hospitals, colleges and universities, commercial real estate, and retail, are still served by dedicated account representatives.¶*

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Deleted: *Nine projects were completed in 2023, with a total of 95 active projects in the program at the end of the year. Projects of note included:¶* ... [14]

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Deleted: *The Large C&I Retrofit Program incentivizes the replacement of existing equipment and systems with energy-efficient alternatives, as well as enhancements that reduce energy consumption, when the customer might otherwise not plan on making efficiency investments. The program offers three distinct pathways that aim to address specific market barriers: ¶* ... [15]

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Deleted: Rhode Island Energy's Small Business Direct Install program is a retrofit program that provides turnkey services to customers that consume less than 1,500,000 kWh per year. As part of the program, customers receive a free on- site energy assessment and a customized report detailing recommended energy efficient improvements. Rhode Island Energy then completes retrofit installations at the customer's convenience. ¶

The C&I Multifamily Program provides comprehensive efficiency services for market-rate multifamily customers who reside in buildings with 5+ dwelling units. These coordinated services include energy assessments and incentives for weatherization and the replacement of heating and domestic hot water equipment and systems. The program's services are offered for all types of multifamily properties.

To streamline the delivery of program services, the Company designates a primary point of contact for the multifamily property who will manage and coordinate the services offered. The measures and services are offered through the Company's existing Energy Efficiency Portfolio of C&I programs (C&I Retrofit) and Residential programs (EnergyWise, Income Eligible, Residential New Construction and ENERGY STAR® HVAC).

Midstream Initiative

The Midstream Initiatives are not a separate program offering but rather are included here given their contribution to the savings of the Retrofit and New Construction Program.

Midstream Initiatives offer instant discounts to customers for the purchase of qualified, high efficiency products including luminaires, kitchen equipment, water heating equipment and high efficiency heating and cooling technologies at participating distributors.

By offering discounts through distributors, the Company eliminates the need for individual customers to submit incentive applications which can be a barrier to participation.

The Midstream Initiatives also reduce the cost of energy-efficient products compared to less efficient alternatives and encourages distributors to stock and promote high efficiency products.

The Midstream Lighting Initiative's savings and budget are included in the Retrofit Program and the Midstream HVAC and Food Service Initiatives are included in the New Construction Program.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Lead by Example: State and Municipal

In May 2023, Governor Daniel McKee issued an updated Executive Order[8] directing State agencies to 'Lead by Example and Act on Climate' and expanded the scope of the program to include explicit support for municipalities and public schools. The updated Executive Order provides new targets for State agencies to reach that are aligned with the Act on Climate. The Lead by Example initiative is also promoting interdepartmental cooperation, unlocking opportunities to invest in comprehensive energy efficiency and renewable measures that can reduce and stabilize public sector energy costs, shrink the government's carbon footprint, and support Rhode Island's burgeoning clean energy economy.

The programs and initiatives of the Lead by Example Program provide technical, procurement, project management, and financial assistance from Rhode Island's Office of Energy Resources to improve the energy efficiency of public sector buildings, upgrade or electrify HVAC systems, install renewable energy systems, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Lead by Example efforts are meant to serve as a model for businesses, organizations, and citizens as we all work together to move Rhode Island towards a clean, affordable, reliable, and equitable energy future.

In 2023, the Lead by Example Program achieved significant progress in its mission to help transition the public sector's energy profile. Several agencies are now operating with 100% LED lighting with integrated controls, and we estimate that nearly 80% of State facilities have LEDs. Our goal is to reach 100% LED lighting conversions in the near future.

[8] Available online at https://governor.ri.gov/executive-orders/executive-order-23-06

Deleted: Rhode Island Energy typically pays up to 70% of installation and equipment costs and customers can finance the remaining share of the project over as many as 60 months (typically 24) on their electric bill, interest free, using the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund, provided funds are available. ¶ ... [16]

Commented [RS14]: Keep but shorten descriptions? Include link to OER annual report?

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The Public School Energy Equity initiative received additional funding from the US Department of Energy to support the upgrade of mechanical and HVAC equipment in public schools. This brings the total funding for this initiative to nearly $20 million dollars, and as OER scales up the pipeline of mechanical projects, many schools have already participated through the upgrade of their lighting systems. To date, 18 schools have completed lighting upgrades and 15 more are under construction, with more in the pipeline.

RI Agricultural Energy Program

Recognizing the vital role that farmers play in Rhode Island's economic and environmental framework, OER, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) aims to improve the accessibility of resources for farmers that will offset agricultural electric load through cost-saving energy efficiency measures and on-site renewable energy projects. Historically, farmers make use of older and traditional infrastructure, and often rely heavily on delivered fuels. These challenges have traditionally made agribusiness a hard-to-reach sector for standard energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

The RI Agricultural Energy Program offers Rhode Island agribusinesses incentives for prescriptive energy efficiency measures. Program participants receive a free on-site energy assessment and a report detailing recommended energy-efficient improvements. Farmers or agribusiness owners can then choose to install any number of recommended electric or delivered fuels measures.

The RI Agricultural Energy Program (RI AgEP) offers financial incentives to farms in Rhode Island of up to $20,000 for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The program has continuously held two funding rounds each year, in spring and fall. This program has helped fund 69 total projects since 2016. The fall 2023 funding round awarded 14 farms for solar and energy efficiency projects.

OER continues to streamline the ability for farmers to leverage the RI Agricultural Energy program with other farm-related programs and grants. By establishing and maintaining open lines of communication with the Department of Environmental Management, Commerce RI, Rhode Island Energy and USDA Rural Development, OER does not limit its outreach work to the RI AgEP, but also promotes all financial incentives available to farmers at the federal and state level. With help from a University of Rhode Island Energy Fellow, additional outreach is conducted virtually and in-person through attendance at farmers markets, online webinars, email, and one-on-one phone calls. Outreach materials and the RI AgEP page on the OER website were also updated to be easier for farmers and agribusiness owners to navigate. The Farm Energy Fellow also helps to create video profiles that are posted to the OER website to spread awareness about program benefits and success stories. OER has created a total of four videos to date and is working on a fifth video project to be released in 2024. Presentations were also given at several workshops and further outreach was conducted through the program's growing social media presence: Facebook and Instagram (@RIFarmEnergyResources).

COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL & PUBLIC FINANCE

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Large C&I Revolving Loan Fund

Through the electric large C&I revolving loan fund, the Company offered $4.65 million through 532 loans in on-bill financing to 379 large commercial customers. At the end of 2023, the fund had a balance of $12.86 million (including committed 2023 dollars). Through the gas large C&I revolving loan fund, the Company offered $0.12 million through 18 loans to 13 large commercial customers. At the end of 2023, the fund had a balance of $1.17 million (including committed 2023 dollars).

Small Business Revolving Loan Fund

All Small Business Direct Install program participants receive financing to cover 30% of project costs, either over 24 months at 0% interest or a lump sum payment with a 15% discount. Through the small business

revolving loan fund, the Company offered $0.69 million in loans to 427 small business customers. At the end of 2023, the fund had a balance of $4.12 million.

Efficient Buildings Fund (EBF)

Since 2015, Rhode Island Energy, the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER), and the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) have been working together to leverage system benefit charge (SBC) funds and drive energy improvements in facilities in cities and towns across Rhode Island.

In 2023, the EBF partners approved projects in Providence, Narragansett, and Middletown to support efficiency improvements and solar installations. These projects will help these communities reduce both their energy costs and their emissions.

Since inception, the EBF has supported 24 projects to municipalities, loaning out over $75 million dollars to support a variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. These will deliver approximately $110 million in savings over the lifetime of the installed measures.

Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)

Since the program was adopted in Rhode Island in 2015, 34 projects have been completed, totaling over $115 million in energy efficiency and renewable energy for businesses. Outreach by the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank and the Company will continue in 2024.

INCENTIVES BY TOWN

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Table 2. Gas and Electric Energy Efficiency Incentives Provided to Residential, Commercial and Industrial Customers in 2023.

Rhode Island Energy Gas and Electric Energy Efficiency Incentives, Rebates, and Services Provided to Residential, Commercial and Industrial Customers in 2023			
Barrington	$1,497,734	New Shoreham	$41,857
Bristol	$2,331,538	Newport	$3,816,902
Burrillville	$803,592	North Kingstown	$4,939,950
Central Falls	$1,707,487	North Providence	$1,767,844
Charlestown	$685,893	North Smithfield	$1,361,306
Coventry	$3,086,324	Pawtucket	$5,928,036
Cranston	$8,920,572	Portsmouth	$3,201,052
Cumberland	$2,855,952	Providence	$27,197,029
East Greenwich	$1,810,299	Richmond	$611,691
East Providence	$7,236,487	Scituate	$1,436,607
Exeter	$666,944	Smithfield	$2,285,022
Foster	$458,045	South Kingstown	$1,989,042
Glocester	$760,890	Tiverton	$1,324,843
Hopkinton	$417,583	Warren	$883,010
Jamestown	$816,145	Warwick	$9,238,526
Johnston	$5,295,013	West Greenwich	$906,603
Lincoln	$4,709,009	West Warwick	$2,690,775
Little Compton	$332,374	Westerly	$2,231,039
Middletown	$1,502,259	Woonsocket	$5,340,107
Narragansett	$4,246,795	**Grand Total**	$127,332,180

COUNCIL PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS

An important role of the Energy Efficiency Council (EEC) is to promote public awareness of energy efficiency programs and their benefits. The Council hosts and sponsors a variety of public events and initiatives that help Rhode Islanders understand and benefit from energy efficiency as the state works to achieve its energy and climate goals.

Energy Efficiency and Climate Public Awareness Campaign

In October 2024, the Council contracted with marketing firm PivotPath to launch a strategic, multi-channel digital campaign designed to broaden audience awareness and engagement of energy-saving programs for low-income households in Rhode Island.

This targeted initiative includes programmatic digital display ads and audio streaming content, supported by an integrated social media campaign that began on November 1. By implementing the campaign programmatically, we were able to serve ads to the exact audience we are trying to reach. That audience with the following characteristics: English and Spanish speaking Rhode Island residents A29-55, low to middle household income (HHI) less than $69k, homeowners and renters, age of home over 20 years old.

Through this comprehensive approach, PivotPath aimed to extend the reach and impact of the RI EEC's efforts to educate residents on the benefits of energy efficiency, boost participation in energy efficiency programs, encourage behavior change to reduce energy consumption, direct traffic to a dedicated landing page that consolidates all program information in a single, easy-to-navigate format. The goal was to encourage visitors to take the next step by signing up for a home assessment and determining their eligibility for program participation.

For more information, see PivotPath's December 2024 Campaign Presentation.

2024 Plugged Into Energy Research Lecture Series at the University of Rhode Island

In 2024, the EEC once again sponsored the University of Rhode Island's Plugged Into Energy Research (PIER) Lecture Series. Since 2015, the PIER Lecture Series has highlighted cutting-edge research and outreach projects and engages industry experts to explore how a variety of energy-related topics may affect our daily lives in the future. The goal of the PIER lecture series is to increase literacy around energy topics of concern in Rhode Island. The Energy Efficiency Council invites all members of the public to join us this fall at the URI Kingston Campus or on livestream for this year's series.

The 2024 series included two lectures, held in-person and virtually, themed around *Comfortable, Healthy, and Cost-Effective: The Power of Home Energy Upgrades*, and addressed the transition towards an economy driven by renewable energy sources.

The first lecture was held on October 29, 2024 and was titled *Comfortable, Healthy, and Cost-Effective: The Power of Home Energy Upgrades*. This lecture provided a comprehensive overview of weatherization, from auditing and building science to improving indoor air quality and reducing your home energy costs. With a special focus on income-eligible programs, a panel of experts from CLEAResult, the Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP) and RI Energy explained what to expect during the weatherization process, and how to access low- to no-cost home energy efficiency programs available to all Rhode Islanders.

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The second lecture was held on November 19, 2024 and was titled *Developing a Climate Strategy for Rhode Island: The Role of Energy Efficiency*. This lecture explored how Rhode Island can address the root causes of climate change while adapting to violent storms, hotter summers, and rising seas. A panel of Rhode Island experts working to reduce carbon emissions through energy-efficiency measures and improve infrastructure resilience in the face of climate change.

Between the two events, there were a total of 160 in-person attendees and 203 livestream attendees, with an additional 416 YouTube views to date. Participants included members of the public, industry professionals, students, and university faculty and staff (Figure 4). The lecture recordings can be found at: https://web.uri.edu/coopext/plugged-into-energy-research-lecture-series/.

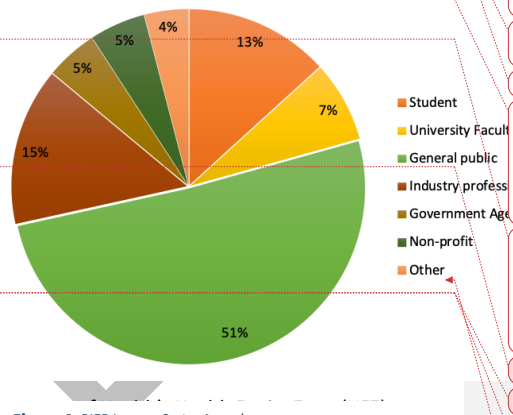

Figure 4. PIER Lecture Series Attendees

Energy Efficiency Council Annual Public Forum

With the help of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Cooperative Extension, this year's EEC Public Forum took a new and more direct approach to reaching target audiences by partnering with the Rhode Island Dep Initiative. The HEZ Initiative's mission is to build a healthy communities and their capacity to affect change, honoring the expertise of those who live and work in those communities, and challenging the systems and structures that perpetuate health inequities. As a society, we spend an enormous amount of resources on healthcare, yet 80% of our health is determined outside the doctor's office and inside our homes, schools, jobs, and neighborhoods. Energy efficiency is one of the many factors that play a role in addressing systemic inequities and fostering healthy communities.

On August 10, 2023, URI Cooperative Extension, working on behalf of the EEC, hosted a workshop as part of the all-day HEZ Learning Community Event held at Rhode Island College. These annual events convene HEZ Initiative stakeholders, including a wide array of community-based organizations, for shared learning, training, and technical assistance. This format allowed the EEC to connect with an existing network of people working in underrepresented communities to raise awareness about how energy efficiency programs can contribute to shared goals around housing affordability and health.

The workshop featured three speakers. A representative from Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) laid the groundwork by explaining the relationship between energy efficiency and health. Next, the Community Outreach Coordinator from the state's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) discussed program eligibility and pathways to reducing the energy burden. Lastly, the Weatherization Coordinator from Comprehensive Community Action outlined a roadmap for navigating the state's weatherization program.

Then the workshop's 80 participants broke out into 10 groups and discussed key questions with the goals of identifying community-based approaches to improving access to energy efficiency programs, mapping connections between different organizations and community members, and strategizing methods for increasing awareness of and successful participation in available energy efficiency programs.

The EEC looks forward to building on this successful event as a way of enabling some of the many recommendations identified to address equity issues in energy programs and reduce energy burden within Rhode Island communities.

Energy Expo at the Rhode Island Home Show

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Deleted: the pathways, obstacles, and opportunities for incorporating energy efficiency as a market driver for real estate and rental properties. Participants will hear from experts in energy efficiency policy, research and housing development discuss how the real estate market can more effectively reflect the value of energy efficient buildings.

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Since 2014, the EEC has sponsored the Energy Expo at the Rhode Island Home Show in partnership with the Rhode Island Builders Association, Rhode Island Energy, and the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources. The Energy Expo connects Rhode Islanders with resources that can help them reduce energy usage, save money, and increase the comfort of their homes. At the Energy Expo, residents can interact with dozens of energy related companies, sign-up for a no-cost home energy assessment, attend energy seminars, and learn about clean energy programs available in Rhode Island. In 2023, the Home Show had over 16,000 attendees, 85% from Rhode Island and 15% from Massachusetts. Learn more at https://ribahomeshow.com/learn/.

The Home Show engages over 1500 students from 26 local Career and Technical Education schools to design and construct various elements of the show floor, including an energy efficient residential technologies demonstration. The Rhode Island Department of Education has approved this work-based learning and career exploration opportunity to satisfy internship requirements for graduation. This year's student-built demonstration included an insulation comparison, an air source heat pump, a hybrid hot water tank, electrical panel upgrades, smart technologies, electric vehicle charging, solar panels, and efficient lighting.

Farm Energy Outreach

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 relatively low in comparison with other small-scale programs. Conversations with stakeholders, energy program administrators, and Rhode Island Energy suggest low participation is due, in part, to a lack of knowledge of available programs.

In 2024, the EEC and the Office of Energy Resources co-funded a University of Rhode Island Energy Fellow from February through December to assist with outreach to the farm community regarding energy management. The Energy Fellow conducted outreach virtually through, email, attendance at farmer's markets, and one-on-one phone calls. The 2024 Energy Fellow focused on increasing awareness about thermal decarbonization options available to farmers, such as air source heat pumps and heat pump water heaters. She developed flyers to promote heat pump technologies through RI AgEP, and visited nearly every farmers market open in Rhode Island during the busy season.

These efforts were successful in engaging farmers for the Fall 2023 round, which saw the first heat pump applications come through the program. A video profile for Sweet and Salty Farm in Little Compton was written, filmed, and produced describing the benefits of several clean energy projects on the farm's operations and the programs utilized to implement that work. This video will be published to the OER website in 2023, along with the other Energy Profile Videos. These video profiles help supplement written energy profiles to share the success stories of agribusinesses tackling clean energy projects. Social Media outreach was conducted through the program's growing online presence: Facebook and Instagram (@RIFarmEnergyResources).

Combined Heat and Power Public Meeting

On Thursday, June 6, 2024, the EEC hosted the Annual Rhode Island Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Stakeholder Meeting virtually. As a legislative mandate, this meeting gives stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on the state's CHP programs and policies. The meeting also serves to inform CHP developers and potential customers about program details and updates for the upcoming year. The meetings are timed to allow for any recommendations to be incorporated, as appropriate, into the Three-Year and Annual Energy Efficiency Program Plans.

Invitations were distributed to Rhode Island Energy's database of CHP vendors as well as past and potential program participants. The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources also sent the invitation to a variety of contacts, including potential Efficient Buildings Fund borrowers as well as legislative, municipal, quasi, and school contacts. There were about 25 participants, the majority of which were CHP developers or vendors that provide related technical assistance or financing.

ENERGY JUSTICE & EQUITY EFFORTS

In 2024, the EEC continued to take steps to increase awareness of energy justice and improve the understanding of equity as it relates to energy efficiency.

Efficient Housing for All Community of Practice

The Efficient Housing for All Community of Practice (EHACoP) will be a structured, multi-stakeholder initiative that fosters cross-sector collaboration among specialists in public health, community engagement, and energy efficiency. The Community of Practice (CoP) will serve as a knowledge-sharing and action-oriented network that identifies challenges, co-develops solutions, and enhances program implementation through

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cross-sector partnerships. Its primary objective is to mitigate barriers to participation in income-eligible home energy efficiency programs in Rhode Island through evidence-based, community-driven interventions.

This model aligns with the CoP model as described in Wenger-Trayner et al., which defines a CoP as a group of people who share a concern and learn how to address it through regular interaction. The EHACoP will build on best practices in strategic convening and collaborative learning from other CoPs in public health and energy equity. The initiatives goals include:

- **Increase Participation:** Develop and deploy community engagement strategies to reduce barriers preventing income-eligible households from accessing energy efficiency programs.
- **Enhance Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Establish an active network between energy efficiency experts, public health advocates, community organizations, and residents to co-develop solutions.
- **Improve Program Design:** Provide recommendations to policymakers and program administrators for more accessible, effective, and equitable energy efficiency initiatives.
- **Develop Knowledge-Sharing Mechanisms:** Create a centralized repository of resources, best practices, and case studies for stakeholders and community members.
- **Measure and Communicate Impact:** Utilize evaluation models to track progress, identify key challenges, and refine approaches.

The EHACoP is designed to reduce barriers to energy efficiency for income-eligible Rhode Islanders. Through strategic convening, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy, it will drive measurable improvements in participation rates and program accessibility. By leveraging best practices from established CoPs, the EHACoP will serve as a national model for energy equity and public health collaboration. The Council looks forward to reporting on the results of this initiative in next year's EEC Annual Report.

Energy Efficiency Equity Working Group

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In 2023, under the advisement of the Council, Rhode Island Energy resumed its work with the Office of Energy Resources (OER) to co-host an Equity Working Group. The goal of this working group was to provide Rhode Island Energy with written recommendations to advance equity in the planning, design, and delivery of its energy efficiency programs. The Equity Working Group was comprised of over thirty representatives from state agencies, community-based organizations, advocacy organizations, and local subject matter experts in equity. The Equity Working Group met four times in 2023 and provided a space where voices and concerns of impacted communities could inform discussions to help identify areas of importance and focus around issues of equity for the energy efficiency programs and adjust the programs to reflect this feedback.

The Equity Working Group's focus in 2023 was to identify equity-related challenges and to develop recommendations to incorporate in the Company's 2024 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan. As an outcome of this work, the Equity Working Group identified six key issues and recommendations which were accompanied by a list of suggested strategies, metrics, and targets. The key issues identified by the Equity Working Group were participation barriers, multifamily barriers, weatherization deferrals, workforce development and training, micro- and small-businesses, and establishment of metrics tracking and reporting[9]. Many individuals, particularly renters and those living in multifamily buildings, have not been able to participate in the programs for a variety of reasons. Many homes need significant non-energy efficiency upgrades, like replacement of knob and tube wiring, before being able to receive low- or no-cost weatherization services from the energy efficiency programs. Investing in these "pre-weatherization" measures and navigating the available programs pose real challenges. In its 2024-2026 Three-Year and 2024 Annual Energy Efficiency

[9] For more information on the Equity Working Group's recommendations, as well as a full report of its activities, please see Attachment 11 of Rhode Island Energy's 2024-2026 Energy Efficiency Three-Year Plan and Annual Energy Efficiency Plan for 2024, available at: https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2023-10/2335-RIE-Attachment11_Bates.pdf

Plans, Rhode Island Energy highlighted the Equity Working Group's recommendations and provided commitments that aim to be responsive to each recommendation[10].

EEC Activities on Advancing Equity in RI Energy Efficiency Programs

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Rhode Island Energy filed a report from the Equity Working Group alongside its energy efficiency plans, as noted above. Because the report was finalized at the same time as the energy efficiency plans and not with sufficient lead time to meaningfully inform the plans themselves, the Council held three meetings in the months following to ensure that Rhode Island Energy would continue to focus on equity issues. Each of the three meetings included presentations and updates from the Company on its continued progress on equity efforts following the completion of the Equity Working Groups activities for the year. The focus of those presentations, and ensuing Council discussion, was to emphasize the importance of building on the Equity Working Group's recommendations so that meaningful progress could be made prior to the start of the new program year in 2024. The Council expects to continue to hold additional meetings with topic areas around issues of equity in energy efficiency programs in 2024.

Equity in EEC Priorities and Policy Recommendations

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This year the Council has once again included equity considerations in its stated priorities for the 2025 Annual Energy Efficiency Program Plan, as well as in its 2024 Policy Recommendations. Emphasizing and embedding equity considerations in the design and delivery of all state energy programs is critical to ensuring that all Rhode Islanders receive the maximum possible benefits.

[10] For more information on Rhode Island Energy's planned commitments related to the Equity Working Group recommendations, please see Section 3.2.4 in the 2024-2026 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan, and Section2.7 – Equity of the 2024 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan, available at: https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2023-10/2335-RIE-Annual-ThreeYr-EEPlan_10-2-23-Bates.pdf

PLANNING INITIATIVES

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Comprehensive and coordinated planning is critical for Rhode Island as it faces urgent climate imperatives and evolving energy challenges. Because the least expensive energy is the energy not used, efficiency is the bedrock of a sustainable and resilient energy economy. Against the backdrop of the state's legislated mandates like Act on Climate, the Energy Efficiency Council offers strategic foresight and planning guidance to maximize energy savings through efficiency programs.

Three-Year Energy Efficiency Program Plan

As part of the legislated triennial process to develop Three-Year Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Plans, the EEC worked with Rhode Island Energy, the Office of Energy Resources, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, and other key stakeholders to develop the 2024-2026 Energy Efficiency Program Plan for Rhode Island. Rhode Island Energy filed the Three-Year Plan with the Public Utilities Commission on October 2, 2023. The purpose of this Three-Year Plan was to establish an overarching strategy for the next three years that will enable Rhode Island Energy to successfully meet the goals of Least Cost Procurement and meet the Energy Savings Targets developed by the EEC and approved by the Public Utilities Commission. The Three-Year Plan met the objectives of being cost-effective and less than the cost of supply, and is grounded in economics, flexible to changing market conditions, and designed to maximize consumer benefit. The Public Utilities Commission deferred its ruling on the Three-Year plan until a later date in 2024.

While the 2021-2023 Energy Efficiency Plan has guided the work of the annual plans for the past three years, work is already underway in 2023 to set the stage for the next three-year period of 2024-2026. An initial outline of the 2024-2026 plan was delivered to stakeholders on April 6th and the first draft is slated to be delivered in June. It is anticipated that the final draft of the 2024-2026 Plan will be considered by the Council in September with Rhode Island Energy filing the Plan in October.

Annual Energy Efficiency Program Plan

In addition to the Three-Year plan, Annual Energy Efficiency Program Plans (Annual Plans) are developed by Rhode Island Energy with significant stakeholder input, including thorough review by the Energy Efficiency Council. These Annual Plans clearly define how the energy efficiency programs will be implemented and specify how the programs will be cost-effective. The Annual Plans are considered by the Council and are ultimately reviewed and ruled on by the PUC. Work on the 2025 Annual Plan is already underway and the Council expects to vote on it at its September 26, 2024 meeting prior to the Company filing it with the PUC by October 1, 2024.

System Reliability Procurement

As an electric and gas distribution company, Rhode Island Energy (RIE) owns and operates the electric and gas distribution systems. The electric distribution system is composed of the entirety of poles, wires, transformers, substations, and other infrastructure that supports delivering electricity to customers across Rhode Island. The gas distribution system is composed of the pipelines, gate stations, pumps, and other infrastructure required to move gas through the pipelines to the equipment that uses it. As customer needs change, generation evolves, and technology matures, RIE continually examines its electric and gas distribution systems to prioritize necessary investments for maintaining safe, affordable, reliable electricity and gas service.

System Reliability Procurement (SRP) is one process for investing in electric and gas distribution systems.[11] SRP encompasses the activities conducted by Rhode Island Energy to meet or mitigate a gas

[11] System Reliability Procurement (SRP) is a statutory obligation of public utilities and carriers under RIGL 39-1-27.7 (commonly referred to as "Least-Cost Procurement"). The purpose of SRP within the overarching umbrella of least-

or electric system need or optimization that provides the need or optimization by employing diverse energy resources, distributed generation, or demand response. Unlike RIE's direct ownership of, say, the poles and wires that make up our electric grid (called Utility Reliability Procurement), through SRP, RIE identifies targeted alternative solutions to certain distribution system needs that are instead owned by third-party vendors. These solutions are referred to as non-wires solutions and non-pipes solutions, which include both customer-side and network-side solutions and which must be cost-effective, reliable, prudent, environmentally responsible, and provide the path to lower supply and delivery costs to customers in Rhode Island.

In 2023, RIE aimed to complete its commitments described in the 2021-2023 System Reliability Procurement Three-Year Plan (SRP Plan). Importantly, RIE made substantial progress in institutionalizing a process for identifying opportunities for non-pipes solutions and carrying through with screening, scoping, soliciting, evaluating, proposing, and implementing. This full process is described in detail in the RIE's proposed 2024-2026 SRP Three-Year Plan, on file with the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission in Docket No. 23-47-EE.

- **Non-wires solutions:** As required by law, RIE screened electric distribution system needs for the potential to be served by non-wires solutions in alignment with Least-Cost Procurement statute, standards, and the 2021-2023 SRP Plan. Rhode Island Energy's assessment was that, for all electric distribution system needs, system reliability procurement was not a viable investment strategy. RIE instead pursued utility reliability procurement and installed additional infrastructure like poles and wires.

- **Non-pipes solutions:** RIE filed an initial non-pipes solution program components, processes, and criteria in the 2024-2026 SRP Three-Year Plan. In 2023, RIE made progress toward producing a detailed initial non-pipes solution program, including continued analysis of the current non-pipes solutions screening and development process, and continued background research on non-pipes solutions. RIE did not identify a non-pipes pilot opportunity to pursue in CY 2023. Refinement of the non-pipes solutions program will be an ongoing process as RIE gains experience and learns from non-pipes opportunities. RIE engaged stakeholders in the development of a non-pipes solution program, opportunities, and challenges through the SRP Technical Working Group.

- **Coordination:** All investments RIE proposes are required to advance safe, affordable, reliable, decarbonized energy distribution to satisfied customers. As such, RIE must coordinate across all investment portfolios, including Infrastructure, Safety and Reliability Plans, Energy Efficiency Plans, Renewable Energy Programs, and others. This coordination is standard practice for the utility company.

- **Stakeholder engagement:** RIE continues stakeholder engagement through the SRP Technical Working Group, an external stakeholder group that advises RIE on matters related to system reliability procurement. In 2023, the SRP Technical Working Group discussed Rhode Island

cost procurement is "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" [RIGL 39-1-27.7(a)].

Energy's SRP process, the application of expected value in evaluating non-wires and non-pipes solutions, the 2024-2026 SRP Three-Year Plan, among other topics.

Additional detail about RIE's activities in 2023 related to system reliability procurement, including assessment of non-wires solutions and advancements in non-pipes solution program development, can be found in RIE's 2023 System Reliability Procurement Year-End Report (forthcoming filing with the Public Utilities Commission in Docket No. 5080).

State Goals: State Energy Plan & GHG Reduction Goals

The Act on Climate required that the RI Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) provide an update on the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan[12], which was published December 15th, 2022. This report showed that as of 2019, the state's economy-wide emissions are estimated to be 10.82 MMTCo2e, 1.8 percent below 2016 emissions. Electric power consumption emissions decreased by 28 percent and industrial emissions decreased by 9.2 percent, but residential heating emissions increased by 13.5 percent and commercial heating emissions increased by 8.8 percent. This report identified energy efficiency as a priority action for reducing emissions from the electric sector and the next comprehensive emissions reduction plan will be published by the EC4 in 2025.

In 2022, Rhode Island also signed into law a requirement to achieve a 100 percent renewable energy standard by 2033. This is the most aggressive renewable energy standard in the country, and meeting this requirement will be a vital element for achieving the goals set by the 2021 Act on Climate.

Energy 2035: The Rhode Island State Energy Plan, formally adopted in October 2015, lays out a long-term, comprehensive energy strategy for Rhode Island. The vision of the Plan is to provide energy services across all sectors—electricity, thermal, and transportation—using a secure, cost- effective, and sustainable energy system. The Plan identifies energy efficiency as the state's "first fuel" and a centerpiece strategy for achieving the Rhode Island Energy 2035 Vision. The State Energy Plan identifies energy efficiency as the lowest-risk, lowest-cost, and arguably, the most sustainable energy resource available for Rhode Island. The Plan also lists Least-Cost Procurement as one of Rhode Island's cornerstone energy policies, and the primary vehicle for delivering the benefits of energy efficiency to Rhode Island consumers and businesses.

RI 2030[13] was released in 2021 as a working document of the State's priorities for the next decade. This plan identifies climate objectives including examining opportunities for a renewable thermal standard, replacing fossil fuel electricity generation with renewable resources, and continuing investment in energy efficiency as a foundational climate strategy.

To achieve the objectives of these plans and the Act on Climate, the Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council is working closely with the Office of Energy Resources and the EC4 to ensure that Rhode Island's energy efficiency programs continue to provide a strong foundation for the necessary energy demand reduction.

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[12] https://climatechange.ri.gov/media/1261/download?language=en

[13] https://ri2030.com/_files/public/RI 2030_final.pdf

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