



# 2025 EERMC Annual Report Development Update

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Consultant Team Presentation

April 17, 2025

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

# Outline



Statutory Requirements

Executive Summary Pamphlet

New Approach

Policy Recommendations

Timeline & Next Steps

Discussion

# Annual Report Requirements

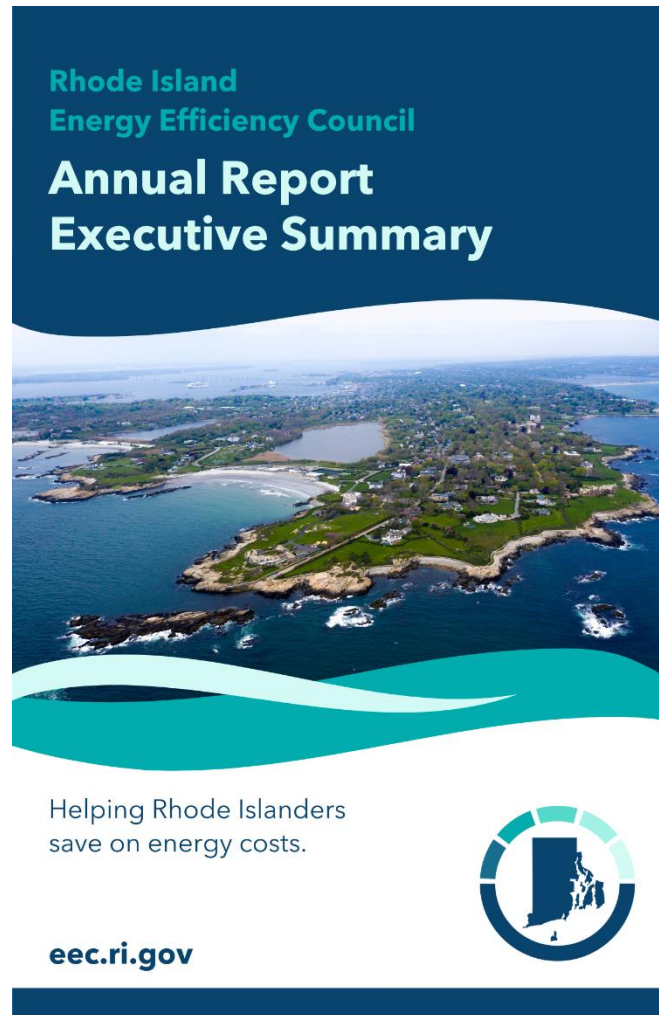


The Powers and Duties section of the EEC's enabling legislation requires the Council to:

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

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

# Executive Summary Pamphlet



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

# Executive Summary Pamphlet



## What is Energy Efficiency?

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

### Examples of Energy Efficiency in the Home:



- INSULATION
- AIR SEALING
- WINDOWS & DOORS



- HEAT PUMPS
- THERMOSTATS
- WATER HEATING



- APPLIANCES
- ELECTRONICS
- LOW-FLOW FIXTURES

## Energy Efficiency Programs in Rhode Island

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

### Rhode Island Energy's efficiency programs:



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

## Energy Efficiency Supports Economy, Jobs & Climate

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



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



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



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



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



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

## What is the Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council?

### MISSION

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

### ABOUT

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

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

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



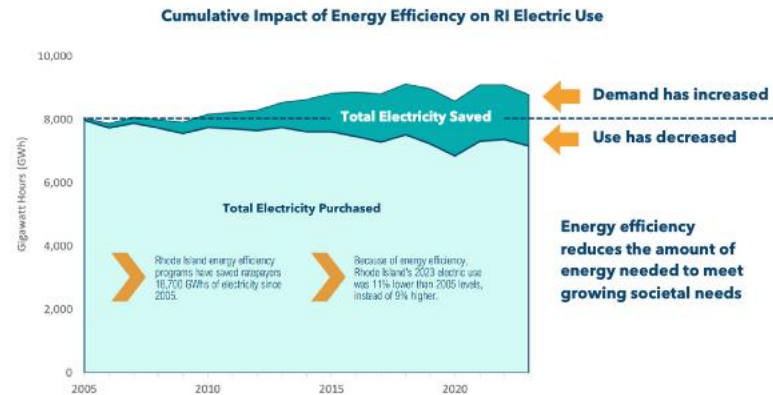
[eec.ri.gov](http://eec.ri.gov)



# Executive Summary Pamphlet



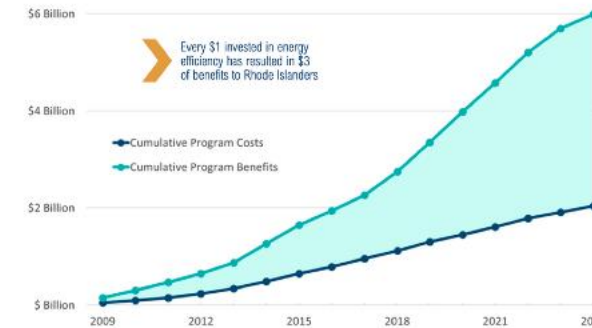
## ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS A RESOURCE



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

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS COST EFFECTIVE

### Value of Energy Efficiency Program Benefits Compared to Costs

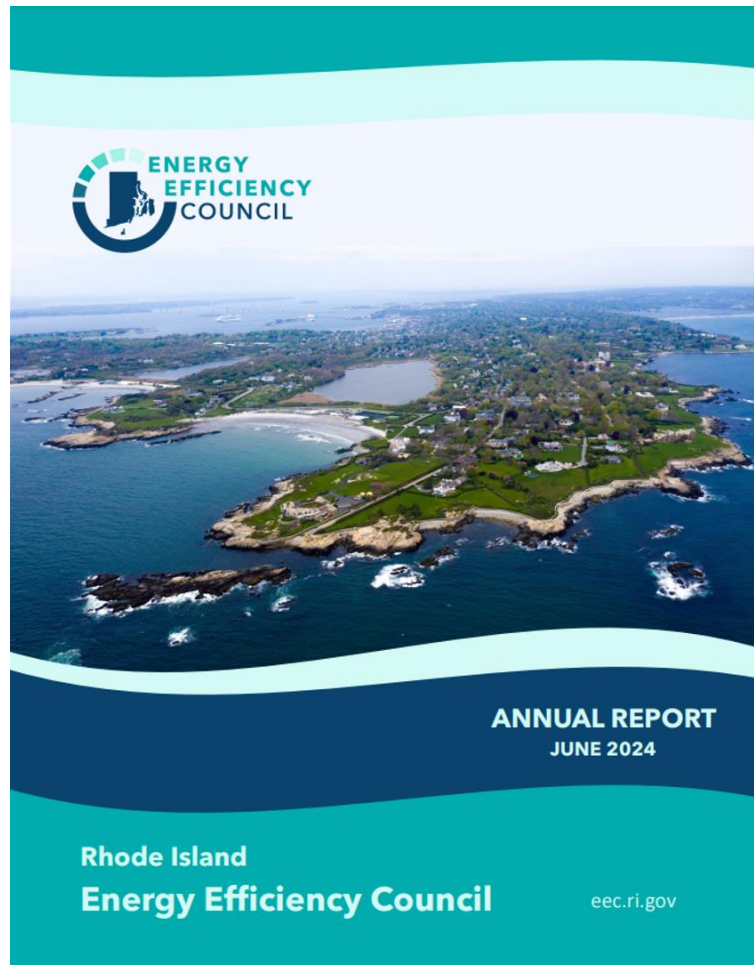


Over time, the cumulative benefits of energy efficiency programs far outweigh the costs of implementation. Since 2009, Rhode Island's ratepayer funded energy efficiency programs have realized about \$6 billion in societal benefits, compared to total program costs of about \$2 billion. These benefits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

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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

# A New Approach



- Less overlap with RIE Year-End Report
- Written in consistent EEC voice
- Shorter, easier to digest
- Focus on:
  - Climate
  - Energy affordability
  - Equity

# EEC Policy Recommendations



## Proposed 2025 Policy Recommendations:

- Sustain Robust Energy Efficiency Investment to Meet Act on Climate Mandates
- Support Ambitious Energy Savings Targets to Reduce Customer Costs
- Increase Investment in Historically Underserved Communities
- Leverage Workforce Development to Advance Climate and Energy Affordability Goals

**More details on  
these in the  
Appendix!**



# EEC Annual Report: Timeline



~~March 20 – Council Meeting: Development overview~~

~~April 10 – Distribute first draft for Council review~~

~~April 15 – Official due date~~

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

May 8 – Distribute final draft for Council review

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

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

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

# Council Member Discussion





# Appendix

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# EEC 2025 Policy Recommendation Detail



## **SUSTAIN ROBUST ENERGY EFFICIENCY INVESTMENT TO MEET ACT ON CLIMATE MANDATES**

Energy efficiency is a cornerstone of Rhode Island’s climate strategy and is essential to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, as mandated by the Act on Climate. Efficiency reduces emissions across all sectors while lowering energy bills and strengthening resilience. It is the most cost-effective and immediate tool we have to reduce demand and drive decarbonization at scale.

Rhode Island’s energy efficiency programs are funded through the System Benefits Charge (SBC) on electric and gas bills and are governed by the Least Cost Procurement statute, which ensures ratepayer funds are invested in savings that cost less than supply. Rigorous planning, evaluation, and oversight ensure these investments deliver high value to Rhode Islanders.

The Public Utilities Commission’s Future of Gas docket affirms this path forward: “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.” Without continued and robust EE investment, Rhode Island cannot meet its climate goals. Strong, sustained funding is non-negotiable if the state is to deliver an equitable, cost-effective, and comprehensive mitigation and resilience strategy.

# EEC 2025 Policy Recommendation Detail



## **SUPPORT AMBITIOUS ENERGY SAVINGS TARGETS TO REDUCE CUSTOMER COSTS**

Energy efficiency is one of the most effective and immediate ways to reduce household energy costs, especially for those most impacted by rising rates. While households and businesses that have participated in energy efficiency programs have realized measurable savings and comfort benefits, those that have not are feeling the full weight of recent price increases and remain more vulnerable to future price volatility. Ambitious savings goals help ensure that all Rhode Islanders can access these cost-saving benefits.

While the Energy Efficiency Council is responsible for setting energy savings targets through a rigorous planning process, strong support across state government is essential to maintain a policy and regulatory environment that prioritizes energy affordability through efficiency. Robust, sustained investment in energy efficiency keeps energy costs down, reduces strain on the energy system, and improves quality of life for all Rhode Islanders.

Given the long-term value of energy efficiency for both participants and non-participants, it is important to carefully consider the tradeoffs between any reductions in program budgets and missed opportunities for cost savings, emissions reductions, and economic resilience that come with underinvestment.



# EEC 2025 Policy Recommendation Detail



## **INCREASE INVESTMENT IN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES**

Many Rhode Islanders, especially those in historically underserved communities, face disproportionately high energy burdens and barriers to participating in energy efficiency programs. These communities often lack access to resources, information, and support needed to engage fully in existing offerings.

Energy efficiency improvements can significantly reduce household energy costs and increase comfort and health. However, longstanding challenges, such as complex enrollment processes and pre-weatherization issues like asbestos, vermiculite insulation, and outdated wiring—continue to limit participation, particularly in Rhode Island’s older housing stock.

The Council continues to work with Rhode Island Energy to enhance program accessibility and outreach. Yet many of the barriers faced by underserved populations fall outside the scope of what current ratepayer funding can address. Identifying complementary funding sources and policy solutions will be critical to expanding access to energy efficiency and delivering equitable benefits to all Rhode Islanders.

# EEC 2025 Policy Recommendation Detail



## **LEVERAGE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TO ADVANCE CLIMATE AND ENERGY AFFORDABILITY GOALS**

A robust and well-trained energy efficiency workforce is essential to achieving Rhode Island’s climate mandates and keeping energy costs down for residents and businesses. As demand grows for clean energy solutions, workforce shortages—particularly in HVAC, weatherization, and energy auditing—risk slowing progress and increasing costs. Strategic workforce development is a key lever to support program delivery, expand access, and improve affordability.

Investing in workforce training can reduce hiring gaps, build career pathways in underserved communities, and ensure programs are equipped to deliver cost-effective savings. Supporting small and minority-, and women-owned business enterprises (MWBs), expanding training for existing workers, and lowering barriers to entry for new workers can help build a workforce that supports Rhode Island communities and meets evolving energy needs.

Aligning goals across state leadership and coordinating investments can strengthen Rhode Island’s economy, create high-quality jobs, and ensure that all communities share in the benefits of a more affordable and sustainable energy future.