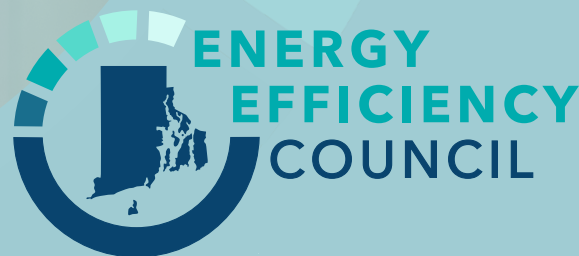


# Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council 2025 Annual Report



*Helping Rhode Islanders save on energy costs.*

**June 2025**

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

**Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908**

*All materials published by the "Energy Efficiency Council" are the work of the "Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council".*

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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. Energy efficiency is essential to achieving Act on Climate mandates, addressing energy affordability, and strengthening resilience.

The effects of energy efficiency in the last decade now cumulatively account for approximately 20% of Rhode Island's electricity needs.

## 2024 ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM IMPACTS



Energy efficiency programs in Rhode Island resulted in...

**\$448 million**

in total benefits to Rhode Islanders



Over their lifetime, energy efficiency measures installed this year will prevent more than...

**364,000 metric tons**  
**greenhouse gas emissions**



Equivalent to taking almost...

**85,000 cars**

off the road for one year



Energy efficiency programs in Rhode Island supported...

**740 jobs**

(full-time equivalent)



**789 companies**

Delivered energy efficiency services this year

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

**Sustain Robust Energy Efficiency Investment to Meet Act on Climate Mandates**

**Increase Investments in Historically Underserved Communities**

**Support Ambitious Energy Savings Targets to Reduce Customer Costs**

**Leverage Workforce Development to Advance Climate & Energy Affordability Goals**

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



*To Governor Daniel McKee, Members of the General Assembly,  
and Rhode Island Energy Consumers:*

As we reflect on the past year, our commitment to energy efficiency and sustainability has never been more critical. The challenges of meeting Rhode Island's climate goals are complex, but they also present an opportunity for leadership, collaboration, and innovation.

Energy efficiency remains a cornerstone of Rhode Island's strategy to meet the mandates of the Act on Climate. Continued investment in cost-effective programs not only helps reduce emissions, but also delivers substantial economic benefits by lowering energy bills for residents and businesses. That's why the Council takes seriously its responsibility to establish strong, data-driven energy savings targets that form the foundation of the state's efficiency efforts.

Our work must also address structural inequities. Historically underserved communities continue to face barriers to participation in energy efficiency programs. Flexible funding and targeted initiatives are necessary to overcome pre-weatherization challenges and close equity gaps. Significant investments are needed to ensure all Rhode Islanders can live in healthier, more affordable homes.

We know that none of this is possible without a skilled, diverse, and growing workforce. Coordinated investments across state agencies can help close hiring gaps, reduce barriers to entry, and promote high-quality jobs, particularly in disadvantaged communities.

This year, the Council spent considerable time grappling with big-picture questions about the future of energy in Rhode Island: How can we avoid incentivizing technologies that slow climate progress? Can electric and gas program offerings be better integrated? And how can we ensure energy efficiency remains the foundation of our climate strategy? Questions like these are especially important after Rhode Island's recent drop in the ACEEE State Scorecard rankings. While we have long been a national leader in energy efficiency, this year's results signal the need for renewed momentum.

Looking ahead, the Council will continue working to advance new solutions to long-standing equity challenges and to ensure that energy efficiency is the foundation of the 2025 Climate Plan. On behalf of the Energy Efficiency Council, thank you for your continued support. Together, we can build a more affordable, sustainable, and equitable energy future for all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Oakley". The script is fluid and cursive.

Harry Oakley  
Chair, Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*To Governor McKee and Members of the General Assembly:*

The Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council (EEC) and the Office of Energy Resources (OER) are pleased to present the 2025 EEC Annual Report.

Energy efficiency investments continue to be one of the best long-term solutions to help us control energy affordability challenges in the state, both at the individual and societal levels. By making critical energy efficiency investments in our homes and businesses, we can help reduce our own energy use and expenses, and when we all make these investments collectively, we reduce the total amount of energy needed throughout the state, helping keep costs low for everyone. At the same time, these investments to our homes and businesses can help improve comfort by reducing drafts and maintaining more heat inside during cold winter days and chilled air on hot, sunny days.

In 2024, the state's energy efficiency programming reduced annual electricity demand by 81,891 MWh and annual gas demand by 263,793 MMBtus. In addition to the energy system benefits, energy efficiency is a foundational component for the state to meet its greenhouse gas emissions obligations with the Act on Climate. As the energy efficiency market transitions over time, we continue to evaluate the program offerings and seek to right-size the program budgets to ensure that these programs meet the needs of Rhode Islanders today, while also balancing these program investments with customers' utility bills.

Energy efficiency is always a very active space and 2024 was no exception. Towards the end of 2023, OER launched the Clean Heat Rhode Island program to provide heat pump incentives to Rhode Island residents, small businesses, and nonprofits and throughout 2024, this program provided over 4,000 heat pump rebates to Rhode Islanders upgrading their heating and cooling systems. At the same time, the OER team worked throughout 2024 to secure over \$90 million in energy efficiency and heat pump funding appropriated by the federal Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help provide funding for investments in our households, municipal buildings, and workforce. While there have been changes in administrations at the federal level, OER will continue to deploy as much federal funding as possible.

OER and the EEC stand ready to collaborate with stakeholders throughout the state to ensure that we maintain a clean, affordable, reliable, and equitable energy system for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Kearns".

Christopher Kearns  
Acting Energy Commissioner  
Executive Director, Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council

## 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 an environmentally and economically 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 June 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](http://eec.ri.gov).

### EEC PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

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.

### VOTING MEMBERS

#### Harry B. Oakley, Chair

Small Commercial & Industrial Users  
Senior Manager, Energy & Sustainability,  
BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc.

#### Peter Gill Case, Vice Chair

Energy Design and Code  
Principal, Truth Box, Inc.

#### Sue AnderBois, Environmental Issues

Director of Climate & Government Relations,  
The Nature Conservancy

#### Dave Caldwell, Energy Efficiency Education & Employment Tracking

Vice President, Caldwell & Johnson, Inc.

#### Priscilla De La Cruz, Residential Users

Director of Sustainability, City of Providence

#### Joe Garlick, Small Non-Profit Institutions

Executive Director, NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley

#### Bob Izzo, Large Commercial & Industrial Users

Director, Energy & Utility Management, CVS Health

#### Thomas Magliocchetti, Large Non-Profit Users

Consultant, Joint Commission Resources, Inc.

#### Kurt Teichert, Energy Regulation & Law

Senior Lecturer in Environmental Studies,  
Brown University

### NON-VOTING, EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

#### Brett Feldman, Electric and Gas Utility

Customer Energy Management, Rhode Island Energy

#### Carrie Gill, PhD, Electric and Gas Utility

Electric Regulatory Strategy, Rhode Island Energy

#### Christopher Kearns, Executive Director

Interim Commissioner, RI Office of Energy Resources

#### John Santoro, Delivered Fuels

CEO/Owner, Santoro Family of Companies

### APPOINTMENTS PENDING

Voting Member Representing Low Income Users

Ex-Officio Member Representing Utilities

## 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 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).

**The effects of energy efficiency in the last decade now cumulatively account for approximately 20% of Rhode Island's electricity needs.**

Rhode Island consumers are the focus of Least Cost Procurement, so ensuring the consumer voice is primary 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 oversight 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Delivered fuels customers do not pay into the Systems Benefit Charge.





# Energy Efficiency Essentials

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY ESSENTIALS: WHAT IS ENERGY EFFICIENCY?

Energy efficiency means using less energy to achieve the same – or better – results. Unlike conservation, which often requires doing less, efficiency allows us to light our homes, stay warm in winter, cool in summer, and power appliances while using less energy. It helps keep our spaces comfortable, healthy, and affordable – and plays a critical role 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. Energy efficiency upgrades can also reduce the need for expensive system repairs or replacements over time, offering lasting financial benefits.

### 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 indoor air cleaner without sacrificing efficiency. These upgrades also help control moisture, reducing dampness and preventing mold growth. As a result, your home stays more comfortable year-round—and healthier for everyone who lives in it.

### CLIMATE

Climate change is already affecting Rhode Island, with rising sea levels, shorter winters, hotter summers, and more extreme storms and rainfall. Reducing energy use is one of the most effective ways to cut greenhouse gas emissions and limit these impacts. Every energy efficiency improvement—large or small—helps. From weatherizing homes to switching to efficient electric technologies, Rhode Islanders can play a key role in building a clean energy future. Energy efficiency is a powerful climate solution that starts right at home.

## HOW DO ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS WORK?

Rhode Island Energy, the primary utility in the state, currently administers most of the state's energy efficiency programs. They offer 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-effectiveness tests
- Have significant oversight & regulation
- Are funded through a small surcharge on all gas & electric bill

Please refer to the Program Results section of this report for more information on each program and how they performed in 2024.

**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**

An energy assessment is the first step to making energy efficient upgrades to homes and businesses. This no-cost consultation unlocks rebates, incentives, and upgrades designed to reduce energy bills, improve comfort, and protect against the physical and financial impacts of extreme weather.

During an energy assessment walk-through, an energy professional will evaluate insulation, air sealing, heating, and cooling systems, and appliances. Based on their findings, they will recommend energy-efficient upgrades, many of which can be installed at low- or no-cost to the customer. Customers will also receive no-cost products like advanced power strips, low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and thermostats during the site visit.

Learn more at: <https://www.rienergy.com/site/ways-to-save/ways-to-save-energy>



## RESOURCES TO LEARN MORE

### RI Energy Efficiency Council Website

The Energy Efficiency Council's website features a resource library focused on Rhode Island's energy efficiency initiatives. It includes key materials such as relevant legislation, program plans, evaluation studies, market potential studies, educational resources, and information on events like the Energy Lecture Series and Energy Expo. Additionally, the site hosts a wealth of materials related to Council business on individual meeting pages. The frequently asked questions section addresses essential topics, such as "Why does my utility care about energy efficiency?". The site also provides regular updates on public meetings and features a public comment submission form, encouraging engagement and input from a diverse range of stakeholders.

Learn more at: <https://eec.ri.gov/>

### Energy Explained RI Videos

The "Energy Explained RI" video series breaks down key energy issues affecting Rhode Islanders. From decoding your electric bill to making energy-efficient upgrades, using demand response for a cleaner grid, and transitioning to all-electric solutions, these videos will help you make informed choices for a more affordable and sustainable future. This series was produced via a collaboration between the Energy Efficiency Council and the Office of Energy Resources, and they cover the following topics:

- [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](#)

Learn more at: <https://eec.ri.gov/videos/>

### Energy Efficiency Council Handbook

The EEC Handbook is a user-friendly guide for anyone interested in understanding the policy, regulatory, and programmatic aspects of energy efficiency in Rhode Island. It offers clear, concise overviews of key topics – from how energy is produced and delivered, to how utilities are structured and regulated, to how efficiency programs are planned, implemented, and evaluated. With helpful links to additional resources, the handbook serves as both an entry point and a reference tool for deeper exploration.

Learn more at: <https://eec.ri.gov/about/>

### Rhode Island Energy Website

Rhode Island Energy's website connects visitors with a variety of rebates and incentives to help customers increase their energy efficiency and reduce costs. Programs include no-cost home energy assessments as well as discounts on insulation, air sealing, high-efficiency heating and cooling systems, appliances, and water heating equipment.

Learn more at: <https://www.rienergy.com/ways-to-save/>

## **Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Plans**

Rhode Island Energy's Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan outlines medium-term strategies to meet energy savings targets, ensure cost-effectiveness, and support economic and environmental goals. It includes funding strategies, planning approaches, and a performance incentive plan, and is filed with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) every three years. Annual Efficiency Plans, developed collaboratively and approved by the EEC and PUC, detail yearly budgets, program descriptions, evaluation plans, and performance incentives. These plans are informed by evolving technologies, market trends, and state policy, and must demonstrate cost-effectiveness while aligning with established savings targets. Together, the Three-Year and Annual Plans are valuable resources for stakeholders looking to understand the structure, strategy, and implementation of Rhode Island's energy efficiency programs in greater detail.

Learn more at: <https://eec.ri.gov/data-and-publications/>

## **RI Office of Energy Resources Website**

Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources' website serves as a central hub for connecting with the state's many energy related programs designed to support an affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy future for Rhode Island. Visitors can find resources related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, heating and cooling, transportation, and climate change. Residents, businesses, farms, public entities, and income-eligible customers can find programs to help reduce energy consumption and costs. The site also features updates on state energy goals, funding opportunities, and other news related to state-driven efforts.

Learn more at: <https://energy.ri.gov/energy-efficiency/>

# Highlights

## 2024 ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Energy efficiency programs in Rhode Island resulted in...

**\$448 million**

in total benefits to Rhode Islanders

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.

Energy-saving upgrades, like insulation and efficient heating and cooling systems heat pumps, installed in Rhode Island homes and businesses in 2024 will keep over 364,000 metric tons of climate pollution out of the atmosphere over their lifetime.



Over their lifetime, energy efficiency measures installed this year will prevent ...

**364,000 metric tons**  
**greenhouse gas emissions**



Equivalent to taking almost...

**85,000 cars**

off the road for one year

According to the EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator, the climate pollution prevented by 2024 energy efficiency programs is equal to taking almost 85,000 gasoline-powered cars off the road for a year – putting this impact into more relatable terms.

Energy efficiency programs in Rhode Island supported the equivalent of 740 full-time jobs in 2024 that would not have existed absent the programs – meaning the total hours of work created added up to what 749 people would work in full-time positions over a year.



Energy efficiency programs in Rhode Island supported...

**740 jobs**  
(full-time equivalent)

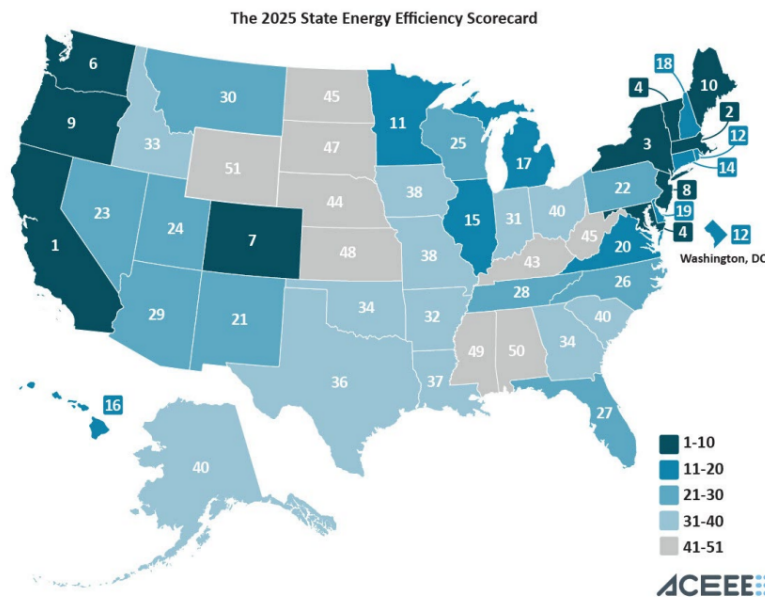


**789 companies**

Delivered energy efficiency services this year

In 2024, Rhode Island Energy worked with 789 companies – including many local contractors and small businesses – to install energy-saving upgrades across the state.

## 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 the 2025 report, however, Rhode Island's position dropped from 7<sup>th</sup> down to 12<sup>th</sup> following changes to the scoring methodology, including doubling total available points for finer granularity and increasing emphasis on equity (see Table 1).

Despite the overall drop in rankings, Rhode Island continued to perform strongly in the Utility and Public Benefits Programs category (i.e. the State's ratepayer-funded energy

efficiency programs), placing third in the nation. This category aligns most closely with the Council's areas of influence and reflects the strength of the state's long-standing efficiency policies and programs. Rhode Island also received a perfect score in the State Government Initiatives category. While this recognition is notable, the Council is focused on driving continued progress toward deeper, harder-to-reach energy savings.

In contrast, Rhode Island lagged in the Building Energy Efficiency Policies category, earning just 10 out of 24 possible points. While Rhode Island lost ground in this category, several states that were previously behind Rhode Island in the overall rankings improved their scores in this category. While this may seem alarming, it is worth highlighting that at the time data was collected for the 2025 Scorecard, Rhode Island was still utilizing the 2018 IECC standards for its building codes. With the recent adoption of the 2024 IECC standards for its building codes, Rhode Island would have received significantly more points in this category and would have retained its Top 10 overall ranking. The state also missed out on points in areas such as building benchmarking, existing building performance standards, and policies that support fuel-switching, each of which would be helpful in helping to achieve the state's Act on Climate mandates. These gaps point to clear opportunities for legislative action to modernize building energy management and support a smoother transition to cleaner technologies.

Similarly, the State did not perform well in the Transportation Policies category, earning just 17.5 out of 26 possible points. While this category is not firmly within the Council's oversight responsibilities, it highlights a clear opportunity for improved policies in this area, which if achieved, could help propel Rhode Island towards the top of the Scorecard.

Finally, the Council would like to highlight the State's relative success in the equity-focused metrics included in the 2025 Scorecard. ACEEE assigns a maximum of 22 out of 100 total points across 14 equity-focused metrics. Rhode Island achieved the maximum points in all but one of the 14 metrics and scored a total of 21 out of 22 points, which put the state in third place only behind California and Massachusetts. The only metric where Rhode Island did not receive points was for a lack of policies that support intervenor compensation for communities participating in utility proceedings.

Read the full report at: <https://www.aceee.org/state-policy/scorecard>

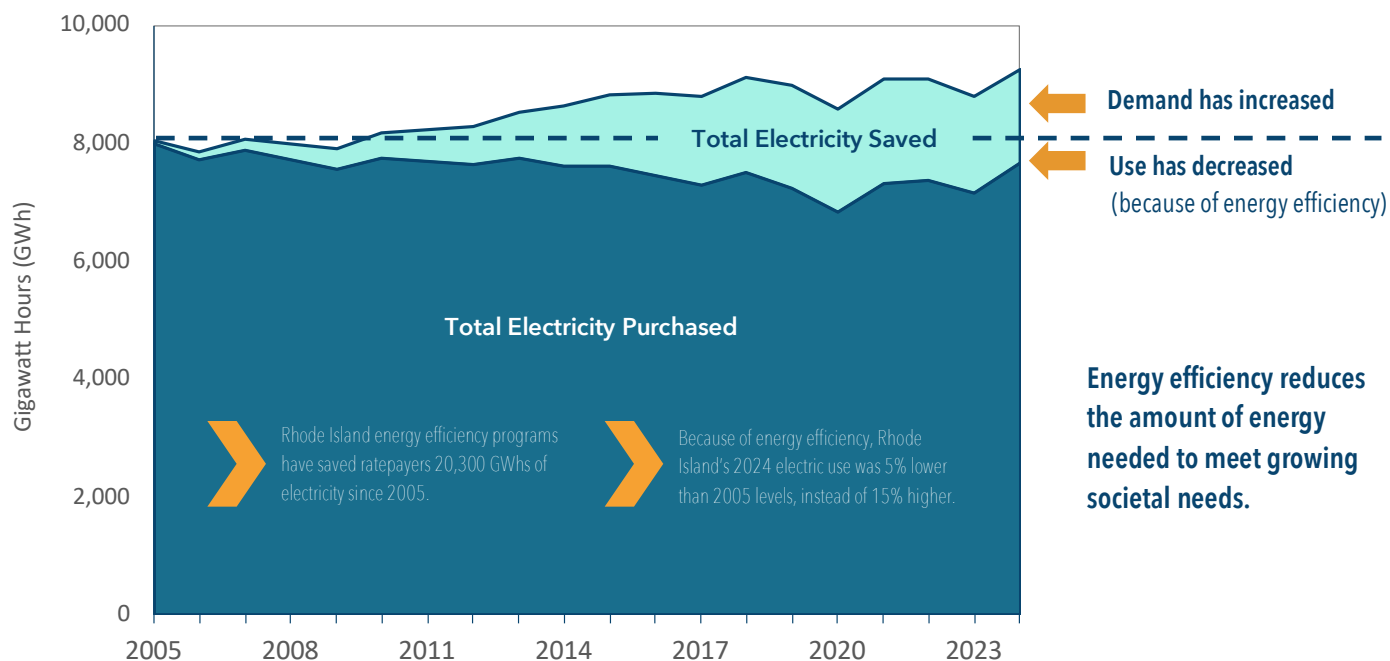
**Table 1. Summary of Top 20 States in the 2025 ACEEE State Scorecard Rankings.**

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	28.5	25	21	9	6	6	95.5	0
2	Massachusetts	22.5	22.5	20	9	6	3	83	0
3	New York	23.5	23.5	16.5	9	6	3	81.5	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	Maine	19.5	16.5	15.5	9	6	4	70.5	-5
11	Minnesota	23	18	14.5	6.5	6	2	70	-1
12	District of Columbia	16	20	18.5	7.5	3	3	68.5	-6
12	Rhode Island	24	17.5	10	9	4	4	68.5	-5
14	Connecticut	19.5	16.5	15.5	9	6	0	66.5	-5
15	Illinois	23	12.5	16	5.5	1	2	60	1
16	Hawaii	16	15.5	9	7	4	5	56.5	1
17	Michigan	26.5	8	8.5	5	6	0	54	-2
18	New Hampshire	20	13	9	7	3	0	52	1
19	Delaware	8	20	9	7.5	4	0	48.5	-1
20	Virginia	7	16	11	8.5	3	0	45.5	0

## 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.

### Cumulative Impact of Energy Efficiency on RI Electric Use



**Figure 1. Cumulative Impact of Efficiency Investments on RI Electric Supply Requirements (2005-2024).**

Since 2005, Rhode Island consumers in Rhode Island Energy's service territory have purchased over 143,000 GWh of electricity. In that same period, ratepayer funded energy efficiency programs have saved Rhode Island consumers about 20,300 GWh of electricity.

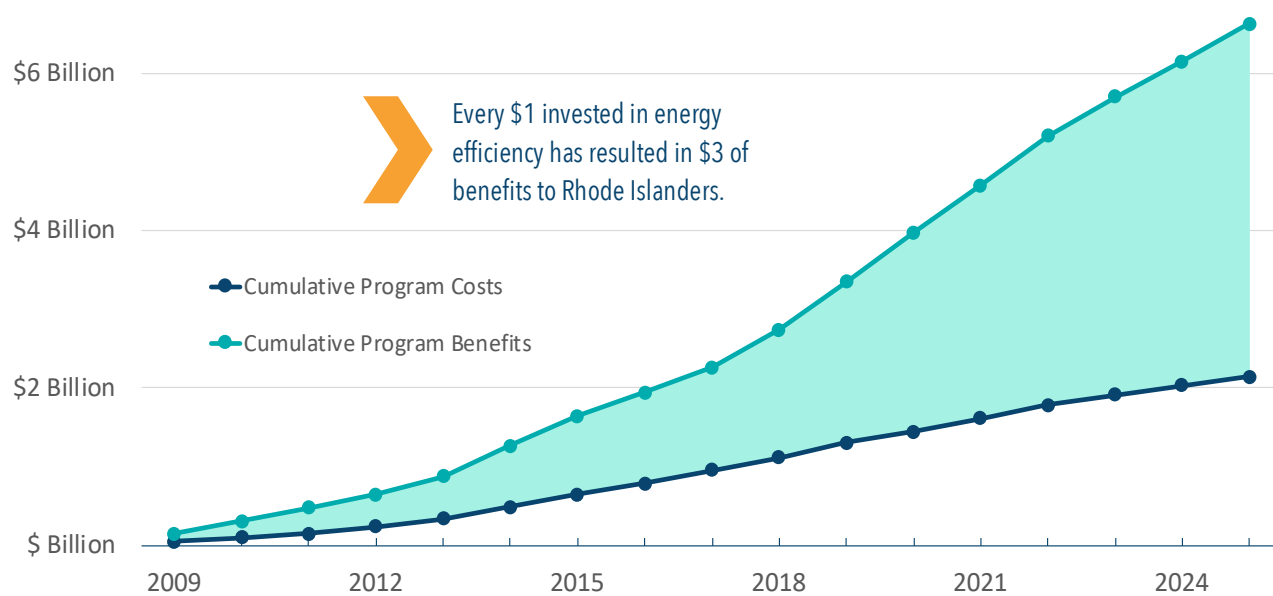
The impact of these savings means that instead of Rhode Island's electric load being 15% higher than it was in 2005, it is actually 5% lower. Additionally, because savings persist over the lifetime of the measures installed, the cumulative savings realized in 2024 account for 17% of what the electric load would have been without the energy efficiency programs.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS COST EFFECTIVE

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 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.

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



**Figure 2. Cumulative Value of Energy Efficiency Program Benefits Compared to Program Costs Over Time (2009-2024).**

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 \$6.15 billion in societal benefits, compared to total program costs of about \$2.03 billion. These benefits include less energy needing to be generated and delivered 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 \$6.5 billion.





# Policies & Priorities

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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 support energy and utility cost reductions for Ocean State residents and businesses, support industry and employment in the clean energy sector, and strengthen Rhode Island’s position as a national leader in energy efficiency and resource conservation.

### Sustain Robust Energy Efficiency Investment to Meet Act on Climate

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 must 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 investment in efficiency, 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.

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.

### **Support Ambitious Energy Savings Targets to Reduce Customer Costs**

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.

### **Increase Investments 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.

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.

### **Leverage Workforce Development to Advance Climate and Energy Affordability Goals**

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.

## PRIORITIES FOR THE 2026 ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SYSTEM RELIABILITY PROCUREMENT ANNUAL PLANS

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 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. Find the full Priorities Memo here: <https://eec.ri.gov/event/eec-meeting-april-17-2025/>.

### 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 Rhode Island Energy to:

#### Support the Mandates of the Act on Climate

*Rhode Island Energy will...*

- Set 2026 EE Plan savings goals consistent with greenhouse gas emissions reductions identified as necessary (or net-beneficial) to achieve from energy efficiency in order to meet the Act on Climate mandates.
- 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 Goals for Customers to Save Money

*Rhode Island Energy will...*

- Set ambitious goals that are demonstrative of program designs that both encourage non-participants to participate, and recent participants to continue participation, all in the spirit of saving customers money on their energy bills.
- Clearly document the incremental energy savings, including those that would lower customer energy bills, that are not being pursued in the 2026 Plan as a result of containing program budgets to reduce near-term ratepayer impacts.
- 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**

*Rhode Island Energy will...*

- Continue to gather and report on equity metrics that have been established through work with the Equity Working Group. Rhode Island Energy 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 determinants 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 targeted 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 Rhode Island Energy 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 support contractors in underserved communities and actively coordinate with state entities to leverage available state/federal funds and workforce development offerings.

## **Conduct Targeted Workforce Development**

*Rhode Island Energy 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 Rhode Island Energy. These baseline expectations include:

- Comply with Least Cost Procurement (LCP) Standards
- Ensure stakeholder input is encouraged and adequately incorporated
- Support an effective and efficient Plan development and review process
- 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

## **SYSTEM RELIABILITY PROCUREMENT (SRP) PLAN PRIORITIES**

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. The Council's key priority areas for the 2026 SRP Plan direct Rhode Island Energy to:

- 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

# Results

## 2024 ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM RESULTS

This section summarizes the results of the 2024 energy efficiency programs – primarily those administered by Rhode Island Energy (RIE), but also some programs offered by the Office of Energy Resources (OER). For more information, refer to RIE’s 2024 Year End Report and OER’s Annual Report.

**Table 2. Summary of 2024 Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Program Results**

	Market Rate Residential	Income Eligible Residential	Commercial & Industrial	Total
Annual MWh Saved (Electric)	34,877	1,891	45,124	81,891
Lifetime MWh Saved (Electric)	148,503	23,950	359,847	532,300
Annual MMBtu Saved (Natural Gas)	157,139	14,881	91,773	263,793
Lifetime MMBtu Saved (Natural Gas)	1,207,154	252,184	764,106	2,223,444
Annual Metric Tons of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided	23,927	2,050	20,044	46,021
Program Participants	36,186	3,137	1,302	40,628
Millions in Total Economic Benefits	\$140.4	\$61.0	\$246.8	\$448.2

*Some figures in this report may differ slightly from those in the Executive Summary Pamphlet, as updated data became available after the pamphlet was printed.*

## 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.

## MARKET RATE RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

### EnergyWise Single Family (Market Rate Single Family)

**In 2024, the EnergyWise Single Family program achieved electric savings of 18,446 net lifetime MWh (123% of target) and gas savings of 708,342 net lifetime MMBtu (115% of target).**

The EnergyWise Program provides in-home energy assessments and weatherization services for single-family homes (1-4 units), helping residents understand and reduce their energy use. During visits, energy specialists install devices like advanced power strips and water-saving fixtures and offer tailored recommendations for improving efficiency. Participants receive an Energy Action Plan, access to financial incentives for upgrades (such as insulation, HVAC systems, and smart thermostats), and may qualify for 0% financing through programs like the HEAT Loan.

### Market Rate Multifamily

**In 2024, the EnergyWise Multifamily program achieved 3,187 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (39% of target) and 53,759 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (52% 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 73,764 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (65% of target) and 278,167 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (127% of target).**

The High-Efficiency HVAC and Hot Water program offers rebates and contractor services to support the installation of energy-efficient electric and gas equipment, including heat pumps, smart thermostats, efficient water heaters, and more. In addition to customer incentives, the program provides contractor training, quality installation verification, and distributor-level discounts. It is cross promoted through other residential energy programs and helps maintain high standards across the market by sharing best practices and training resources with related initiatives.



## Residential Consumer Products

**In 2024, the Residential Consumer Products program achieved 11,871 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (78% of target).**

The Residential Consumer Products (RCP) program offers rebates on ENERGY STAR® appliances and other energy-saving items, with the greatest savings coming from recycling old refrigerators, dehumidifiers, and freezers. Customers can purchase qualifying products in stores, from any online retailer, or through the RI Energy Marketplace—a one-stop shop where rebates are automatically applied at checkout. Most products are DIY-friendly, and while not all are incentivized, all listed items are vetted to help consumers avoid unreliable options.

## Residential New Construction

**In 2024, the Residential New Construction program achieved 15,086 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (95% of target) and 66,740 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (91% 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 26,150 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (112% of target) and 100,145 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (117% 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 Rhode Island Energy's website. The program has evolved since 2013 from offering only mailed insights to now being integrated into Rhode Island Energy'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

### Income Eligible Single Family

**In 2024, the Income Eligible Single Family Program achieved 17,694 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (48% of target) and 123,116 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (102% of target).**

The Income Eligible Services (IES) Program offers home energy assessments, weatherization services, appliance, and heating system replacements with no customer cost to qualified single-family customers. Customers who qualify for the A-60 rate or for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are eligible to receive all services and equipment upgrades at no cost. The IES Program's services are delivered by local Community Action Program (CAP) agencies who coordinate with outside contractors that perform heating system and appliance replacements and weatherization installations with oversight provided by a lead vendor.

## Income Eligible Multifamily

**In 2024, the Income Eligible Multifamily Program achieved 6,256 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (34% of target) and 129,067 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (78% of target).**

The Income Eligible Multifamily Program offers comprehensive energy services for multifamily customers that also meet the criteria for “income eligible”, which is defined in Rhode Island Energy’s Annual Energy Efficiency Program Plan. These services include energy assessments, incentives for heating and domestic hot water systems, air source heat pumps, cooling equipment, water savings installations and thermostats. Typically, there are no costs to the customer for these services as most income eligible upgrades are covered at 100 percent.

## 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. Rhode Island Energy'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.

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 81,315 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (45% of target) and 144,514 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (22% 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 233,297 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (96% of target) and 446,048 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (42% 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 to defray part of the material and labor costs associated with the installation of energy efficiency measures. In addition, Rhode Island Energy 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 45,234 net lifetime MWh of electric savings (76% of target) and 133,157 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (112% 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 small 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 40,387 net lifetime MMBtu of gas savings (62% of target).**

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, Rhode Island Energy 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 Rhode Island Energy'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 Initiative, while not a standalone program, contributes to the savings of the Retrofit and New Construction Programs. These initiatives provide instant discounts to customers on qualified high-efficiency products—such as luminaires, kitchen equipment, water heaters, and HVAC systems—through participating distributors. By offering discounts directly through distributors, Rhode Island Energy removes the need for customers to submit incentive applications, removing a participation barrier. The initiatives also lower the cost of energy-efficient products and encourage distributors to stock and promote these items. Savings and budget for the Midstream Lighting Initiative are included in the Retrofit Program, while the Midstream HVAC and Food Service Initiatives are part of the New Construction Program.

## OTHER PROGRAMS

### Clean Heat Rhode Island

In September 2023, the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) launched the Clean Heat Rhode Island (CHRI) heat pump incentive program. This program was created through legislation by the Rhode Island General Assembly and Governor McKee as an investment of \$25 million as a part of the State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF) from the American Rescue Plan Act. Through this program, over 4,000 heat pump rebates were provided to residents, small businesses, and nonprofits, spurring the deployment of heat pumps throughout the state. Through these heat pump investments, the Office of Energy Resources estimates that the lifetime Co2 saved from completed projects totals 234,870.6 tons. All program funds have been obligated as of January 2025 and OER is exploring opportunities for future heat pump programming. Learn more at:

<https://energy.ri.gov/heating-cooling/clean-heat-ri>

### Lead by Example: State and Municipal

The Lead by Example (LBE) program supports Rhode Island's entire public sector in reducing energy use, cutting fossil fuel consumption, and transitioning to clean, low-carbon energy solutions. Managed by the Office of Energy Resources, the program provides technical assistance, procurement and project management support, and funding to improve building performance, electrify systems, install renewable energy, and expand electric vehicle infrastructure. Lead by Example efforts are meant to serve as a model for businesses, organizations, and communities across the state to work toward a clean, affordable, reliable, and equitable energy future.

An updated Executive Order issued in 2023 set new climate-aligned targets for state agencies and expanded LBE's scope to include municipalities and public schools. LBE also promotes 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.

As of 2023, state agencies have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 31.9% from 2014 levels—well on track to meet the 2030 goal of 40%. Energy use intensity (EUI) has dropped by 18.9%, and the state achieved 100% renewable electricity for its facilities by 2021. Learn more at: <https://energy.ri.gov/leadbyexample>

### 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 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. The Fall 2024 round awarded funding to ten farms for solar and energy efficiency projects. Learn more at: <https://energy.ri.gov/energy-efficiency/farm-energy-programs>

## **COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL & PUBLIC FINANCE**

### **Large C&I Revolving Loan Fund**

Through the electric large C&I revolving loan fund, Rhode Island Energy offered \$2.19 million through 27 loans in on-bill financing to 24 large commercial customers. At the end of 2024, the fund had a balance of \$16.16 million (including committed 2024 dollars). Through the gas large C&I revolving loan fund, Rhode Island Energy offered \$0.25 million through 3 loans to 2 large commercial customers. At the end of 2024, the fund had a balance of \$1.4 million (including committed 2024 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, Rhode Island Energy offered \$1.1 million in loans to 464 small business customers. At the end of 2024, the fund had a balance of \$3.7 million.

### **HEAT Loan**

The HEAT loan provides qualified residential customers with 0% financing for upfront costs associated with energy efficiency upgrades. The HEAT loan also spreads the upfront costs over multiple years. The EnergyWise Single Family, Multifamily, and HVAC programs pay the negotiated interest for the customer cost portion of the loan. The Capital Good Fund (the lender of last resort) provides financing to customers with less than perfect credit. There were 833 loans processed in 2024 totaling approximately \$8.19 million in financing towards project costs.

### **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 2024, the EBF partners approved projects in East Providence and Lincoln to support efficiency improvements in schools. These projects will help these communities reduce both their energy costs and their emissions.

Since its inception, the EBF has supported 26 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, 38 projects have been completed, totaling over \$144 million in energy efficiency and renewable energy for businesses. Outreach by the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank and Rhode Island Energy will continue in 2026.

## INCENTIVES BY TOWN

**Table 3. Gas and Electric Energy Efficiency Incentives Provided to Residential, Income Eligible, and Commercial & Industrial Customers in 2024 through Rhode Island Energy Programs.**

CITY / TOWN	INCENTIVES RECEIVED	CITY / TOWN	INCENTIVES RECEIVED
Barrington	\$1,230,696	New Shoreham	\$17,666
Bristol	\$1,629,998	Newport	\$5,437,912
Burrillville	\$498,248	North Kingstown	\$2,799,433
Central Falls	\$637,751	North Providence	\$997,730
Charlestown	\$659,654	North Smithfield	\$1,000,339
Coventry	\$2,167,342	Pawtucket	\$4,020,642
Cranston	\$6,598,590	Portsmouth	\$1,208,982
Cumberland	\$2,513,066	Providence	\$21,662,722
East Greenwich	\$1,351,276	Richmond	\$304,223
East Providence	\$5,817,075	Scituate	\$1,221,378
Exeter	\$376,028	Smithfield	\$2,131,167
Foster	\$245,814	South Kingstown	\$520,389
Glocester	\$489,850	Tiverton	\$1,221,449
Hopkinton	\$374,884	Warren	\$636,631
Jamestown	\$621,950	Warwick	\$7,817,913
Johnston	\$2,436,691	West Greenwich	\$4,054,340
Lincoln	\$2,939,255	West Warwick	\$2,037,248
Little Compton	\$217,400	Westerly	\$2,470,651
Middletown	\$1,311,732	Woonsocket	\$414,822
Narragansett	\$2,525,604	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$94,618,541</b>





# Education

## **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 late 2024, the Council partnered with marketing firm PivotPath to launch a strategic, multi-channel digital campaign aimed at increasing awareness and engagement in energy-saving programs among low-income households in Rhode Island.

The campaign featured a mix of digital display ads, audio streaming content, and an integrated social media strategy. Using programmed targeting, PivotPath delivered ads to a specific audience: English- and Spanish-speaking Rhode Island residents ages 29–55 with household incomes under \$69,000. The campaign reached both renters and homeowners living in homes over 20 years old.

This targeted effort drove traffic to a custom landing page offering clear, streamlined information about available programs and the benefits of energy efficiency programs. The goal was to encourage visitors to sign up for home energy assessment and check their eligibility for no- or low-cost services.

Over the 10-week campaign, the landing page saw more than 22,000 visits. Click-through rates on display ads exceeded industry benchmarks in both English and Spanish, and social media engagement among Spanish-speaking audiences was nearly five times higher than that of English-speaking users. More information is available at: [https://eec.ri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/RI-EEC-December\\_EEY-Media-Delivery-Report.pdf](https://eec.ri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/RI-EEC-December_EEY-Media-Delivery-Report.pdf)

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

In 2024, the EEC once again sponsored the Plugged Into Energy Research (PIER) Lecture Series, organized by University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension as part of its Energy Literacy Initiative. Since 2015, this series has showcased cutting-edge research, engaged industry experts, and explored how evolving energy topics impact Rhode Islanders' daily lives. Its goal is to increase energy literacy across the state.

This year's two-part series, *Comfortable, Healthy, and Cost-Effective: The Power of Home Energy Upgrades*, focused on the vital role of energy efficiency in Rhode Island's transition to a low-carbon future. Eight expert speakers joined from organizations including the Providence Office of Sustainability, CLEAResult, Comprehensive Community Action Program, the RI Center for Justice, Rhode Island Energy, the RI Infrastructure Bank, the RI Office of Energy Resources, and Truthbox Architects.

The first lecture, held October 29, 2024, provided a deep dive into residential weatherization, covering audits, building science, indoor air quality, and home energy savings. With a focus on income-eligible households, panelists outlined what to expect from the weatherization process and how to access free or low-cost efficiency programs available to all Rhode Islanders.

The second lecture, held November 19, 2024, explored the role of energy efficiency in developing a statewide climate strategy. Panelists discussed how to reduce emissions while building resilience to urgent challenges facing Rhode Island communities today, including hotter summers, stronger storms, and rising seas.

The events were open to the public both in person and via livestream, drawing participation from students, faculty, energy professionals, and community members. Recordings are available at:

<https://web.uri.edu/coopext/plugged-into-energy-research-lecture-series/>

## **Energy Efficiency Council Annual Public Forum**

For the second year in a row, the University of Rhode Island (URI) Cooperative Extension and the Energy Efficiency Council (EEC) partnered to bring the Council's annual public forum into the Rhode Island Department of Health's Health Equity Zone (HEZ) Learning Community event, advancing a more intentional approach to engaging historically underserved communities. The HEZ Initiative aims to build a healthier, more resilient Rhode Island by investing in local capacity, honoring lived experience, and addressing systemic inequities.

On July 29, 2024, URI, on behalf of the EEC, hosted a workshop during the full-day HEZ event at Rhode Island College. The gathering convened a diverse network of community-based organizations for shared learning and technical assistance. It offered a valuable platform to connect with trusted messengers working directly in underrepresented communities and to highlight how energy efficiency programs support broader goals like housing affordability, public health, and environmental justice.

URI provided information about home energy efficiency incentives to community health workers who serve Rhode Island's most vulnerable residents. CEELI staff led workshops that framed energy efficiency as a key social determinant of health, connecting issues like indoor air quality, comfort, and safety to available solutions for low-income households.

Nearly 50 participants joined small group discussions to reflect on the material and identify barriers to program access. This work will continue in 2025 through a new *Efficient Housing for All* Community of Practice, an initiative aimed at creating a roadmap to equitable energy efficiency. The concept was met with strong support from local leaders and community workers, and the Council looks forward to building on this momentum to reduce energy burdens and advance health equity across Rhode Island.

## **Energy Expo at the Rhode Island Home Show**

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 2024, the Home Show had over 16,000 attendees, 85% from Rhode Island and 15% from Massachusetts. 220 people signed up to receive home energy assessments.

This year, the Home Show engaged over 850 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. Learn more at: <https://ribahomeshow.com/learn/>

### **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.





# Equity

## **ENERGY JUSTICE & EQUITY EFFORTS**

The Energy Efficiency Council (EEC) remains committed to identifying and addressing systemic inequities within Rhode Island's energy efficiency programs. The Council works closely with Rhode Island Energy to drive structural change, shaping programs to better serve historically marginalized communities, dismantling barriers to participation, and ensuring that the benefits of energy efficiency are accessible by all Rhode Islanders.

### **EEC Efforts to Advance Equity in RI Energy Efficiency Programs**

Energy justice and equity continue to be central themes in the Council's work. In 2024, the EEC highlighted opportunities for making strides in this area by incorporating equity imperatives into its 2024 Policy Recommendations (p. 16) and its priorities for the 2025 Annual Energy Efficiency Program Plan (p. 18). Embedding equity into the design and delivery of all state energy programs is essential to ensuring that all Rhode Islanders receive meaningful benefits, especially underserved communities. The Council's 2024 public awareness campaign focused on reaching income-eligible customers and Spanish-speaking communities.

Throughout the year, numerous Council public meetings included equity-focused agenda items, particularly as the Council provided ongoing input and oversight on Rhode Island Energy's development of an equity metrics tracking system. Additionally, through a strategic partnership with the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension, the Council has connected with a network of community-based workers through the Department of Health's Health Equity Zone initiative, further described below.

### **Efficient Housing for All Community of Practice**

After two successful public forums integrated into the Department of Health's Health Equity Zone Community Learning Events, a new initiative has emerged. In 2024, EEC allocated funding to launch a new initiative in 2025: the Efficient Housing for All Community of Practice (EHACoP), led by the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension. This multi-stakeholder initiative will bring together experts in energy efficiency, public health, and community engagement to identify barriers and co-develop solutions that improve access to income-eligible home energy efficiency programs. Modeled on the Wenger-Trayner framework, the EHACoP will function as a collaborative learning network that shares knowledge, applies best practices, and drives action through regular, cross-sector interaction.

The initiative aims to increase participation among income-eligible households, enhance collaboration between community organizations and program administrators, and improve program design through evidence-based, community-driven strategies. It will also develop a centralized repository of resources and use evaluation tools to measure and communicate impact. Through strategic convening, knowledge-sharing, and the application of best practices, the EHACoP will work to reduce barriers and serve as a model for advancing energy equity in Rhode Island and beyond. The Council looks forward to sharing outcomes in next year's Annual Report.

Learn more at: <https://web.uri.edu/coopext/efficient-housing-for-all/>

## **Energy Efficiency Equity Working Group**

Since 2021, Rhode Island Energy (RIE) has convened an Equity Working Group (EWG), facilitated by the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI), in an effort to ensure its energy efficiency programs equitably serve all Rhode Islanders. The EWG brings together a diverse mix of stakeholders – including community-based organizations, advocacy groups, government entities, and equity experts – to provide input on program design, delivery, and performance metrics.

The EEC consultant team participates in these meetings on the Council's behalf, offering input and sharing insights with Council members. In 2024, 47 stakeholders took part in seven meetings focused on assessing progress and shaping the 2025 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan.

Two key themes emerged: the need for greater transparency and accountability, and the importance of increasing community-based and resident representation. Stakeholders called for stronger community engagement, clearer metrics, and targeted workforce development. Specific recommendations included removing participation barriers for underserved groups – such as low- to moderate-income households, multifamily dwellings, small businesses, and those with pre-weatherization issues – and investing in more equitable outreach and service delivery.

Rhode Island Energy incorporated these priorities into its 2025 Plan, with a renewed focus on equitable marketing, outreach and education, workforce development, and transparent equity reporting. By applying an equity lens, this work aims to dismantle systemic barriers and ensure that all Rhode Islanders have access to the benefits of energy efficiency.

Read the 2024 Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Equity Working Group Report at: <https://eec.ri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Year-4-2024-RI-EWG-Final-Report.pdf>



## PLANNING INITIATIVES

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 (EEC) offers strategic foresight and planning guidance to maximize energy savings through efficiency programs. Rhode Island’s energy efficiency activities work in three-year cycles that include setting energy savings targets, developing three-year plans, developing, implementing, and evaluating annual plans for three years, and evaluating and using results to inform the next cycle.

### Three-Year Energy Efficiency Program Plan

2024 marked the first year of implementing the 2024–2026 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan, which Rhode Island Energy (RIE) is required to file with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The Plan outlines a strategy to meet the goals of Least Cost Procurement and achieve energy savings targets developed by the EEC and approved by the PUC. RIE collaborated with the EEC, the Office of Energy Resources, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, and other key stakeholders to develop a Plan that meets statutory requirements for cost-effectiveness. It is grounded in economic analysis, adaptable to changing market conditions, and designed to maximize consumer benefits. Two guiding themes shape the Plan: (1) RIE’s programs should be customer-centric and responsive to market needs, and (2) programs must equitably serve all customers.

Read the 2024-2026 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Program Plan at:

[https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2023-10/2335-RIE-Annual-ThreeYr-EEPlan\\_10-2-23-Bates.pdf](https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2023-10/2335-RIE-Annual-ThreeYr-EEPlan_10-2-23-Bates.pdf)

### Annual Energy Efficiency Program Plan

In addition to the Three-Year Plan, Rhode Island Energy develops Annual Energy Efficiency Program Plans (Annual Plans) with extensive stakeholder input, including detailed review by the EEC. These Annual Plans outline how energy efficiency programs will be implemented and demonstrate how they will remain cost-effective. The Council considers each plan before it is reviewed and ruled on by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).



The 2024 Annual Plan focused on five priorities: expanding program reach, incorporating next-generation efficiency measures, enabling customer investment in energy savings, ensuring equitable service, and strengthening workforce capacity.

The 2025 Plan is now in implementation, and development of the 2026 Plan is already underway. The Council continues to play an active role in shaping these plans and evaluating outcomes to ensure programs evolve to meet community needs and achieve deeper energy savings across Rhode Island.

Read the Annual Energy Efficiency Program Plans at: <https://eec.ri.gov/data-and-publications/>

## **System Reliability Procurement**

As the state's electric and gas utility, Rhode Island Energy (RIE) is responsible for maintaining safe, reliable, and affordable service through ongoing investment in its electric and gas distribution systems. These systems include the poles, wires, substations, pipelines, and other infrastructure that deliver energy to customers. As customer needs evolve and new technologies emerge, RIE continuously evaluates its systems to prioritize investments that support grid reliability and modernization.

One key mechanism for this work is System Reliability Procurement (SRP), which focuses on identifying targeted, cost-effective alternatives to traditional infrastructure upgrades. Known as non-wires and non-pipes solutions, these third-party-owned resources, such as demand response or distributed energy, are deployed to address specific grid needs and reduce long-term system costs.

2024 marked the first year of the 2024–2026 SRP Three-Year Plan, which emphasizes four priorities: clarity, alignment, actionability, and strong regulatory justification. The Plan aims to better integrate SRP with broader business functions and investment strategies while advancing innovative approaches to system reliability.

Further detail on RIE's 2024 SRP activities, including assessments of non-wires solutions and progress in non-pipes solution development, is available in RIE's 2024 System Reliability Procurement Year-End Report.

Read the 2024-2026 SRP Three-Year Plan at: [https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2023-11/2347-RIE-SRP-3-YrPlan\\_11-17-23-bates\\_1.pdf](https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2023-11/2347-RIE-SRP-3-YrPlan_11-17-23-bates_1.pdf)

## **Act on Climate**

Rhode Island's 2021 Act on Climate sets enforceable targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030, 80% by 2040, and to reach net-zero by 2050. In 2022, the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) released an updated emissions reduction plan showing modest progress: 2019 emissions were 1.8% lower than in 2016, with notable declines in electric power and industrial emissions but increases in emissions from residential and commercial heating. Energy efficiency was identified as a priority action for further reductions.

The EC4 is now developing the 2025 Climate Action Strategy, a comprehensive and evolving plan to meet the Act's goals. The plan will be developed with a robust public engagement process and will focus on using energy more efficiently, transitioning away from fossil fuels, increasing clean energy sources like wind and solar, removing carbon through natural solutions, and ensuring a just transition that supports workers and communities through the shift to a low-carbon economy. This strategy will be a comprehensive working document that will be updated every five years thereafter. The EEC is monitoring its development and will provide input to ensure efficiency remains central to Rhode Island's climate progress.

Learn more at: <https://climatechange.ri.gov/>

## State Energy Plan

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<sup>2</sup> 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 EEC 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.

Learn more at: <https://energy.ri.gov/resources/major-initiatives/state-energy-plan>

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<sup>2</sup> [https://ri2030.com/files/public/RI 2030\\_final.pdf](https://ri2030.com/files/public/RI%2030_final.pdf)