

Efficient Housing for All

Roadmap to Weatherization - A Guide for Community Workers and Ambassadors

This fact sheet is intended to be used in tandem with the *Roadmap to Weatherization* to provide information to Rhode Island residents and community-based workers about home energy efficiency, in-home energy assessments through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and other venues, and help answer questions about the process.

WHAT IS WEATHERIZATION FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY?

- ☐ Energy efficiency means using less energy to perform the same tasks.
- ☐ Energy efficiency in the home is achieved through weatherization, which helps to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature and reduce energy use consistently.
- ☐ Examples of weatherization include proper insulation, installing storm windows and doors, weatherstripping, installing smart thermostats and energy efficient appliances, etc.
- ☐ Energy efficiency is different from energy conservation, which is more about changing our behavior to use less energy. See the differences in the table below.

Examples of Energy Conservation	Examples of Energy Efficiency
Turning your refrigerator temperature up	Installing a high-efficiency fridge
Turning off lights when you're not in the room	Upgrading to LED lights
Only running full loads in your dishwasher	Installing an energy efficient dishwasher
Setting the thermostat to a higher temperature in the summer, and a cooler temperature in the winter	Upgrading to energy efficient HVAC, use proper insulation, and upgrade windows and doors

A - WHY WEATHERIZE YOUR HOME?

- ☐ Energy efficiency means using less energy to perform the same tasks, like heating and cooling your home.
- ☐ **A1 - Weatherizing your home will lower your bill**
 - ★ By using less energy, you reduce monthly costs. Proper insulation, efficient heating systems, and air sealing prevent energy waste and help you save money.
 - ★ If everyone in your neighborhood weatherized their homes, then the amount of energy everyone uses would go down, meaning the demand for energy would also go down, reducing how much everyone pays for energy.
- ☐ **A2 - Lowers your family's contribution to greenhouse gases**
 - ★ Using less energy reduces greenhouse gas emissions, helping Rhode Island combat climate change while improving the quality of life for its residents.
- ☐ **A3 - Creates a healthier and more comfortable home environment for your family**
 - ★ Energy upgrades reduce drafts, regulate temperature and improve indoor air quality. They can also control moisture to prevent mold growth and allergens.
 - ★ Low income residents are more likely to live in energy inefficient and unhealthy homes than high income residents, meaning they are also more likely to experience temperature related illness, asthma, and cancer due to poor insulation, poor ventilation, and exposure to contaminants.
 - ★ [For more information about the health benefits of weatherization, click this link.](#)

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B - WHO CAN WEATHERIZE THEIR HOME?

□ Who is eligible for an in-home energy assessment?

- ★ Any Rhode Island resident: homeowners, renters, or landlords.
 - **B1 - I am a landlord. Can I get an in-home energy assessment for my rented property?**
 - Yes! Landlords are eligible for up to \$10,000 in upgrades per unit up to 4 units. Multi-family home landlords can receive an average of 70% discount on weatherization. If you are considered a “market rate customer” you may be eligible for a 100% incentive for weatherization costs if the building is 100% renter occupied. [Click here to learn more.](#)
 - **B2 - I am a renter. As a tenant, can I sign up for an in-home energy assessment?**
 - Yes, you just need the landlord’s permission. [See this link for more information.](#)

□ B3 - How can I tell if I’m a discount rate payer or market rate payer?

- ★ On your energy bill, below “Delivery Details” if it says A-60, you are income eligible. If it says A-16, you are market rate.
- ★ Discount rate payers participate in one or more of these programs:
 - [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#)
 - [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#)
 - [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#)
 - [Medicaid](#)
 - [Rhode Island Works Program](#)
 - [Public Assistance](#)

Delivery Details		
Rate: A-16 T&D Residential		
Customer Charge		6.00
RE Growth Program Chg		4.02
LIHEAP Enhancement Chg		0.79
Distribution Energy Chg	564 kWh at 0.06459	36.42
Renewable Energy Dist Chg	564 kWh at 0.02444	13.79
Energy Efficiency Programs	564 kWh at 0.01334	7.53
Transmission Charge	564 kWh at 0.04161	23.46
Total Delivery Charges		\$92.01

□ B4 - How do I receive the discount rate if I participate in one of the above programs?

- ★ If you participate in any of these programs you are also eligible to receive a 25% or 30% discount on your energy bill through Rhode Island Energy.
- ★ How to submit your discount eligibility documentation:
 1. Use [the secure file transfer portal](#) to begin the document submission process.
 2. Select “Upload” to attach your confirmation letter (JPG, PDF, PNG, DOC, and TIFF formats accepted)
 3. Type your email address in the “From” field
 4. Select “Account Protections” from the dropdown menu in the “To” field
 5. Enter your service address including city and state in the “Subject” field
 6. Include your full legal name and phone number in the “Message” field
 7. Select “Drop Files Off” to share your documents with Rhode Island Energy

□ Who do I call to schedule an in-home energy assessment?

- ★ Who you call depends on your income level:
 - **B5** - Discount rate / “Income Eligible” Customers call ClearResult at 401-351-1800
 - **B6** - Market Rate Customers call RISE at 888-633-7947
- ★ Continue to *Section D* for information about how to proceed.

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D - HOW AND WHEN DO YOU WEATHERIZE YOUR HOME?

★ D1 - How do I make my home more energy efficient?

- Schedule a Home Energy Assessment
 1. The Home Energy Auditor will arrive and review your home inside and out, including the walls, basement, attic, etc. to detect sources of energy loss using tools like blow doors and infrared cameras.
 - a. You're welcome to accompany them during the assessment or leave them alone to complete their work.
 2. The Home Energy Auditor reviews the results of the Home Energy Assessment with you
 3. You select Energy Efficiency Upgrades for your home and schedule contractors to install the upgrades.
 4. *Your energy bill goes down, your home is more comfortable and you are among the energy efficient homes in Rhode Island!*

★ What kind of upgrades and improvements to my home might the Home Energy Auditor suggest?

- Air sealing to reduce air leakage and drafts
- Adding insulation to your attic, foundation or walls
- Replacement of air filters for forced air HVAC systems
- Installation of water heater insulation blankets
- Furnace and hot water heater replacement
- [And more!](#)

★ When should an energy assessment be done?

- You should get an energy assessment if you want a lower energy bill, a more comfortable home, or want to do your part to reduce your carbon footprint. Rhode Island residents can get energy assessments done once every three years.

★ What is the cost of energy efficiency? Do I pay for the weatherization upgrades and the resulting upgrades to my home, and why?

- Rhode Island residents pay an Energy Efficiency Programs delivery charge on their energy bills that funds weatherization, among other programs. This is why weatherization upgrades are low to no-cost to ratepayers in Rhode Island.

Delivery Details

Rate: A-16 T&D Residential		
Customer Charge		6.00
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THE *WHAT IF'S...*

★ **E1 - What kind of pre-weatherization barriers would prevent me from upgrading my home, and why?**

1. Knob and tube electrical wiring - Insulation cannot be installed in houses with knob and tube electrical wiring because it increases the risk of fires.
2. Mold - Mold can corrode metals and other materials and can even compromise the structural integrity of a house, which would defeat the purpose of the weatherizations.
3. Foundation leaks - If the foundation of a house leaks, it is not efficient to insulate when the leak will degrade the insulation's performance.
4. Roof leaks - It is not effective to insulate an attic if the roof leaks and will degrade the insulation's performance.
5. Pest infestation - Contractors are not authorized to remove pests from residents' homes.
6. Radon - Radon can contribute to a weakened home foundation.
7. Asbestos - Weatherization can release asbestos in your home if it already exists.

★ **What do I do after I resolve my pre-weatherization barriers?**

- You can get another assessment done right away to proceed with weatherization to your home

★ **Is there anything I can do in the meantime while I'm trying to resolve my pre-weatherization barriers? What if I'm unable to resolve my pre-weatherization barriers?**

- Energy conservation still helps you lower your bills, live in a healthier environment, and combat climate change. Try these [energy saving behaviors](#):
 1. Turn your refrigerator temperature down
 2. Use lights only when you're in the room
 3. Only run full loads in your dishwasher
 4. Scrape food off plates rather than rinse them before putting them in the dishwasher.
 5. Set your thermostat a few degrees warmer in the summer and a few degrees cooler in the winter
 6. Use fans in the summer to keep cool and turn them off when you leave the room
 7. Use curtains and blinds to keep your house cool in the summer
 8. Unplug kitchen appliances, gaming consoles, and other devices when you're not using them
 9. Wash your clothes with cold water
 10. Take showers instead of baths