

# Executive Summary

Rhode Island Energy (RI Energy) administers the Retail Products Program to help customers reduce their energy use by offering incentives on energy-efficient products. In 2023 and 2024, nearly 8,000 customers participated in the program, collectively recycling or purchasing more than 27,000 efficient measures and saving over 14,000 kWh in lifetime energy savings. Most of those savings—~72 percent—came from pool and plug load equipment.

## Why Evaluation?

RI Energy uses evaluation to assess the performance of its programs, as well as to prospectively estimate the savings associated with future program years. This evaluation examined a wide variety of prescriptive products, including appliances, cooling and dehumidification equipment, hot water, plug load, and pool equipment. The team conducted an engineering analysis and surveyed participants to develop energy savings and demand reductions.

## Key Results

● Previous Evaluation Savings ● Evaluated Savings ● Direction of Change



### Variable-Speed Pool Pumps

kWh/year

1,284

The team updated savings for pool pumps using the updated DOE metric from 2021, Weighted Energy Factor, which resulted in a decrease in energy savings. Altogether, pool pumps accounted for 52% of total lifetime savings for evaluated Retail Products program measures.

625



### Room Air Conditioners

kWh/year

36

Since RI Energy will use the evaluation results prospectively, the team updated the existing room air conditioner savings to reflect the impending federal standard effective in 2026. Cooling, along with dehumidification equipment, accounted for 19% of total lifetime savings across the evaluated measures.

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## Recommendations:

**Adopt Evaluated Gross and Net Savings for Prospective Application.** Our team identified numerous improvements to gross savings algorithms and input values. Collectively, these improvements, which often reflect important updates to appliance standards or efficiency ratings, yield gross savings that better reflect RI Energy's current Retail Products program.

**Collect More Comprehensive Contact Information.** Our team was only able to conduct participant surveys for one measure. This is because the program tracking data did not include sufficient participant contact information to support surveys for other measures. We recommend that Rhode Island Energy place greater emphasis on collecting participant email addresses to support future evaluation efforts.

**Add Additional Fields to Program Data.** The team was only able to calculate realization rates for electric savings because the program data only included ex ante savings for electricity. To enable calculation of realization rates for other fuel types, the team recommends that RI Energy add gross annual savings for therms and delivered fuels to program tracking data provided to future evaluators.