

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Both the SRP TWG and the EE TWG met in April. Development of the SRP 3YR Plan and the 2027-2029 Plan Outline Memo were discussed. Read more on page 4.

EQUITY WORKING GROUP

The Energy Efficiency Equity Working Group met twice in March to establish their work plan for the year and discussed pre weatherization barriers. Read more on page 3.

EC4 UPDATE

The EC4, STAB, & Advisory Board met to discuss Resilient Rhody 2025 and the Climate Action Strategy. Updates from OER were also presented. Read more on page 5.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

GECA [Navigating the Rhode Island Energy Rate Case](#) - May 20

CESA [Solar and Energy Storage for Massachusetts Environmental Justice Communities: Benefits, Barriers, Solutions](#) - May 26

NEEP [Summit 2026 | The Power of Us Energy Efficiency Through Collaboration](#) - June 2-4

New England Energy Roundtable | [Affordability & Clean Energy Solutions](#)- June 12

MEETINGS COVERED

EE EWG - 3/2 & 3/30

SRP TWG - 4/14 & 5/4

EE TWG - 4/23

EC4 - 3/20

EC4 STAB - 3/24 & 4/30

EC4 Advisory Board - 3/25 & 4/29



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

New Data Shows Alarming Rise in Home Energy Insecurity

US HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING ENERGY INSECURITY:

27% → **33%**
IN 2020 IN 2024



OF HOUSEHOLDS HAD TO FORGOE FOOD OR MEDICINE TO PAY THEIR ENERGY BILLS

NATIVE AMERICAN AND BLACK FAMILIES REPORTED INSECURITY AT NEARLY TWICE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

DATA FROM THE 2024 RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION SURVEY

SPOTLIGHT

NEEP'S NEW MULTIFAMILY RETROFIT DATABASE

NEEP launched the Multifamily Retrofit Case Study Database, a collection of 50 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic case studies, over the last five years, representing over 9,000 housing units and more than \$660 million in capital investment. The free database highlights best practices and lessons learned, which could be beneficial to future multifamily retrofit projects.

Emerging Patterns from the initial dataset:

1. Deep energy savings are achievable and replicable
2. Subsidized affordable housing is a focus area for innovative program design
3. Comprehensive rehabilitation projects show consistent cost and savings ranges
4. On-site solar helps mitigate increased electric loads - feasibility varies

Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources Completes Window Heat Pump Project

On April 20, 2026 Governor Dan McKee and the RI OER announced the completion of a Clean Heat Rhode Island project that has incorporated energy efficient heating and cooling to 194 apartments at Carroll Tower. The project was made possible through the collaboration of OER, Abode Energy Management, Envr Air, and Gradient. Carroll Tower is an affordable housing building, exclusively for the elderly, and operated by the Providence Housing Authority. This is RI's first affordable housing window heat pump project, and it is among the largest window heat pump installations in the U.S. with a total of 277 Gradient All-Weather 120V window heat pump units. The \$1.25 million project could deliver around 450,000 kilowatt-hours in annual energy savings, equal to \$94,500 annually, and an estimated reduction of 219 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent each year.



PHOTOS: RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES



On March 2, the Equity Working Group (EWG) began their meeting by discussing how Rhode Island Energy (RIE) is moving forward with a three-year plan approach, with binding targets across the full term. This could mean better results and more efficient planning processes; however, the Least Cost Procurement statute and/or standards may need to be updated. The work of the EWG will inform the upcoming three-year planning process. During the meeting, the EWG put out a poll to gauge interest on priority topics that the EWG should focus on in 2026. Based on 20 survey responses, the most requested topic was Landlord and Renter Education. RIE and the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) will review final survey data and use it to inform upcoming meeting topics. In the meeting's topic deep dive, RIE's consultant Guidehouse presented on a language access study that is currently being conducted. The final report is expected to be published in July 2026, which will include results on how language access can be a barrier to customer participation in RI programs, a customer journey map identifying customer pain points, and recommendations on program updates and future research. The study is focused on individuals whose primary language is Spanish, but it will address other language access needs as well. Breakout group discussions emphasized that the EWG should support efforts to leverage existing relationships and the ongoing need to identify other community-based groups who can support community engagement and translation services.

In the March 30 meeting, the EWG reviewed the final survey results from their previous meeting and introduced their proposed work plan. Between July 27 and August 17 the EWG will be drafting and finalizing recommendations to submit to RIE by the end of August. The Community Action Partnership of Providence (CAPP) and GHHI-RI presented on pre-weatherization barriers. The Community Home Improvement of Providence is a current pilot program with a target audience of Low-Income Providence households deferred from CAPP's weatherization program due to health and safety hazards. The program's objective is to remediate barriers and complete weatherization in forty-five units by April 2027. Of the forty-five units, six will receive additional electrification or electrification readiness measures. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and HUD Healthy Homes Production Grant are providing funding support for this program. Currently, sixty-eight CAPP deferrals have enrolled, and forty-five are in the pipeline for RGGI funding. Pre-weatherization barriers currently being addressed include knob and tube wiring, pest infestation, hoarding, oil tank leak repair, chimney and roof repairs, frayed or damaged asbestos, and mold remediation. Some recent case studies were presented from the program, and the meeting concluded with discussions on reactions to the current efforts, potential alternative efforts to address deferral rates, and additional steps that RIE can take to reduce deferral rates and better serve Low-Income residents.

2026 EWG Priority Topics Survey Results



EQUITY WORKING GROUP PROPOSED WORK PLAN 2026

Date	Topic
3/30	Pre Weatherization Barriers
4/27	Renters & Landlords
5/25	Outreach and Engagement, 2025 Year End Metrics Update
6/29	Marketing and Workforce Development
7/27	Small Business Outreach
7/27 - 8/17	Plan Drafting, Share with EWG Members on 8/17 for Review
8/31	Review Comments & Finalize for Submission to RI Energy

Smiley Proposes new 'Green Revolving Fund' for Providence

On April 7, Mayor Brett Smiley announced he is looking to create a "Green Revolving Fund" that would help pay for energy efficiency throughout Providence. While pending approval from the city council, Smiley states the city would invest \$3 million to fund energy efficiency, renewable energy, and electrification projects around Providence. Funding would be designated from the city's capital improvement budget. The goal would be to advance the city's Energy Efficiency and Carbon Neutral Goals for Municipal Buildings ordinance, which sets to have all municipal buildings carbon neutral by 2040. The mayor also mentioned that energy efficiency changes in the city has decreased overall energy use in city buildings by 7% over the past four years.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY Technical Working Group

On Thursday, April 23, the Energy Efficiency Technical Working Group ("the TWG") discussed the 2027-2029 Plan Outline Memo. The TWG acknowledged that future three-year plans would take place over a longer period of planning. The importance of having language in the plans that speak to a longer time horizon of planning was emphasized, which will provide the Company with some flexibility. Regarding the Residential and Income Eligible sector, planning needs to include the addition of Heat Pump Water Heaters because they are significantly more efficient than other alternatives. The TWG made note to ensure that incentivized equipment is stocked and available, and the importance of pre-weatherization aligns with the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative. On the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) sector side, recent evaluations found that current offerings of existing building commissioning are not as comprehensive as they can be, and it is essential to understand that it takes time to move the market and deliver savings. Customer forums are scheduled in May to receive feedback on programs. Due to mixed success from these forums, new strategies to better present information to solicit feedback from end users are being considered. The TWG stated that vendors are an additional important stakeholder to receive feedback from and encouraged more detail at future meetings on C&I opportunity studies. There is hope that a three-year plan might provide more opportunities to engage with C&I customers earlier and start planning further out. The meeting concluded with a discussion on upcoming customer listening sessions and customer assistance events.

SYSTEM RELIABILITY PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

On April 14, the System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Technical Working Group laid out the administrative and regulatory requirements to develop the three-year SRP standards. The 2027-2029 SRP covers process, evaluation methods, and screening criteria, but it will not cover individual investment proposals. The SRP will also summarize the process for setting a level playing field for assessment of solutions. For instance, an SRP investment proposal filing can be submitted if qualitative review, or "screening," determines opportunity based on characteristics of constraints. Projects need to be large and have a long enough time horizon to allow for SRP procurements ("sufficient market interest"). Additionally, the SRP Technical Working Group is working on a three-year investment proposal for ConnectedSolutions in the 2027-2029 term that is on a similar track as the SRP filing. On May 4, the SRP TWG met to continue stakeholder engagement with RIE as part of developing the three-year plan. RIE provided an overview of the 2024-2026 SRP 3YP and walked through section-by-section summaries to support preparation of the 2027-2029 plan. Area studies remain essential for identifying whether needs are best addressed through SRP or Utility Reliability Procurement (URP) solutions. The "expected value" methodology will change for the next SRP plan, though specific modifications are still uncertain. The SRP TWG also discussed the ConnectedSolutions investment proposal, which is currently in development. The 2027-2029 proposal will maintain current program objectives of reducing coincident peak loads and is expected to resemble the current proposal with some enhancements. Lastly, the SRP TWG reviewed efforts to improve reliability in Woonsocket. Woonsocket explored a non-wires solution to address a reliability need because URP need was not driven by asset condition, the cost was over one million dollars, and the fix could be addressed in under two years. An RFP for non-wires solutions was issued with extensive outreach to distributed-energy resource providers and other RI stakeholders, however, only one supplier participated in the bidder conference. This supplier raised questions about ownership, market participation, and other related factors. No proposals were received, even after two deadline extensions to accommodate the changeover from National Grid to RIE. Therefore, energy efficiency did not alleviate concern, and demand response through storage was found to be too expensive. As a result, Woonsocket pursued a URP solution supported by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding.

Virtual Workshops to provide feedback for 2027-2029

Income Eligible: May 12, 6:30-8:30 PM

Residential: May 14, 6:30-8:30 PM

Commercial & Industrial: May 19, 11:00 AM - 1:00PM

SRP 3YR PLAN TIMELINE

- **Feb - Mar** → Internal Kickoff & Stakeholder engagement
- **Apr - Jun** → Initiate, coordinate, & develop First Draft
- **Jul - Aug** → Refining the plan
- **Sep-Oct** → Full Draft review & Submission
- **Nov** → File with PUC!

FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATES



EEC
NEWSLETTER

RHODE ISLAND
MAY 2026

EC4 UPDATE

Program	Status
Home Efficient Appliance Rebate (HEAR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lanuched in 9/2024, Trump Admin froze in 1/2025, Relaunched in 4/2025 • \$29-31 billion • RI is the first state to launch
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relaunched about a year ago • In process of expanding Moderate-Income (MI) households, working with CAP agency to pilot • RI will likely be the first to launch a MI WAP
Home Efficiency Rebate (HER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting approval from DOE to launch
Solar for All Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terminated in August 2025 by the Trump Administration • RI is one of several states litigating this

On March 20, the EC4 voted unanimously to approve [Resilient Rhody 2025](#), the statewide resilience plan, and submit it for legislative review. The Resilience Plan outlines ten solutions with over forty sub-categories of climate adaptation and resilience strategies. The plan illustrates that growing climate risks will require proactive solutions, there is a need for systems-based approaches that prioritize community and natural resource health, and evolving risks call for flexible funding and technical assistance. The timeline for the Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund regulations was discussed as well. Taking into consideration the public comment that was gathered in April and early May, the RI Infrastructure Bank will adopt the regulations in May or June. In November 2026, a bond referendum will take place on the proposed \$20 million resiliency fund. If the bond passes, using a twenty percent grant and eighty percent loan model, it will support \$90 million in projects. An RFP for projects will be released in January 2027. In other announcements, the OER and CRMC announced that the Revolution Wind Project began delivering power to the grid as of March 13, and the project will be fully operational in the second half of 2026. Lastly, RI Commerce spoke on [the Small Business Energy Efficiency Grant Program](#), which reimburses eligible small business expenses up to \$20,000 for energy efficiency measures implemented as a result of an energy efficiency assessment or audit.

Science & Technical Advisory Board:

The EC4 STAB reconvened on March 24 to follow up on its February statement regarding the [2025 Climate Action Strategy](#) (CAS). The Acadia Center provided an update and highlighted opportunities for STAB's expertise to inform policymakers working on initiatives such as Resilient Rhody and the CAS. While STAB materials serve as a strong baseline resource for legislators, the group noted that direct engagement with the STAB may also be valuable. The STAB

members discussed the need to identify ways to educate stakeholders without crossing into lobbying. The STAB is also considering reinstating a climate science update into their annual report. Potential themes could include biofuels, the evolution of Renewable Energy Credit accounting beyond annual frameworks, and the attribution of climate-related impacts in RI, such as considerations related to the Superfund law. The meeting concluded with a discussion of student-supported STAB research and an opportunity for public comment. On April 30, the STAB provided an update on their work plan for their upcoming Climate Science Report. Concern was raised about federal datasets that previously informed the Report but have since faced funding cuts or been removed entirely by the Trump Administration. In response, the STAB is identifying alternative sources to replace those federal databases. Members emphasized that the report should be easily accessible with lots of graphics to best highlight key findings. The STAB is also preparing a memo that expands on their February statement to inform the legislature as they deliberate on the Governor's Budget Proposal. STAB feedback will be incorporated before the memo is finalized in May. The meeting concluded with presentations on student-supported STAB research, including studies on transportation mode shifting, opposition to climate action in the legislature, and the Climate Superfund Bill.

Advisory Board:

The EC4 Advisory Board heard from Chris Kearns, Acting Commissioner at OER, who covered several key energy topics. Kearns discussed how the Governor's Budget Proposal included a ten-year extension of energy efficiency programs, a budget cap of \$75 million per year, and a transition to three-year planning cycles. He also outlined proposed revisions to the Renewable Energy Standard (RES), including shifting the target year from 2030 to 2050 and modifying the alternative compliance payment structure to allow large-scale hydropower and nuclear energy as eligible resources. Additional recommendations included updates to the virtual net metering program and OER's proposal to codify long-term benchmarking while creating a structured voluntary program for interested cities and towns. Kearns provided an overview of federal funding available for RI's energy efficiency initiatives, workforce training, and renewable energy efforts. Kearns concluded by highlighting ongoing lawsuits involving the federal government, including cases related to the Revolution Wind Project and the Solar for All initiative. In April, the Advisory Board provided updates on engagement and resilience efforts related to EC4 actions. The Health Equity Zone Community of Practice event was highly successful, drawing over 190 attendees and covering topics such as climate basics, RIDEM's role in climate engagement, and the purpose of the Climate Action Strategy. Additionally, a Community Conversations event, Growing Rhode Island: Programs Supporting Our Farms, Food, and Communities, occurred on May 6. Chief Resilience Officer Kim Koriath announced that the 2025 Resilient Rhody Plan was approved by the legislature, and her staff is reviewing cost estimates for translating the goals of the plan into actionable steps. In addition, a climate resilience fund was launched with \$2 million available for municipalities. The Advisory Board received an update from RIDEM, which is working to incorporate natural and working lands data into the Climate Dashboard. The Advisory Board discussed drafting a letter in response to the proposed cuts to clean energy items in the Governor's Budget Proposal, similar to the STAB's memo. The Advisory Board will seek internal edits within the next week before finalizing and sending to the EC4.

The Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council (EEC) is a group of stakeholders that serves all customers to ensure the utility is investing in the least expensive resource - energy efficiency.

Learn more at eec.ri.gov | All materials associated with the Energy Efficiency Council are the work of the Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council.