

## GOVERNOR RAIMONDO KICKS OFF NATIONAL ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) and other partners joined Governor Gina Raimondo on Monday at Newport Solar to kick off a month-long celebration of National Energy Awareness Month, a nationwide effort to underscore how essential the energy conversation is to protecting the environment and growing the economy.

The event marks the beginning of OER's month-long campaign to raise awareness about Rhode Island's clean energy achievements and the many ways Rhode Islanders can benefit from energy efficiency measures, renewables and other "green" initiatives. The American Council on Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) recently ranked Rhode Island fourth in the country for best energy efficiency programs and policies, according to its [State Energy Efficiency Scorecard](#).

"Our clean energy sector in Rhode Island has created a slew of new opportunities for education and jobs, and that will continue as we move forward in building the clean energy industry," said Governor Raimondo. "It's fitting to be here today to highlight one of the many small businesses in the industry – Newport Solar – who so graciously is hosting this event. I'm proud of our state's energy policies, which have provided strong framework for small businesses like Newport Solar to grow and prosper."

OER Commissioner Carol Grant added that National Energy Awareness Month is about raising awareness around the industry and helping consumer take better steps toward a cleaner, more affordable energy future.

"The State's programs have enabled homeowners and businesses to be active participants in how we build the clean energy economy," Commissioner Grant said. "We are proud to highlight the ACEEE's most recent rankings today as we kick off National Energy Awareness Month, and we want to educate Rhode Islanders on the many benefits of the state's energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. There are many more achievements to highlight, and we look forward to further developing a future of clean, affordable, reliable and diversified energy."

Michael Ryan, Vice President of Government Affairs at National Grid, said: "We encourage Rhode Islanders to participate in our celebration of the state's collective achievements by looking for ways to save energy this month. Whether it's obtaining an energy efficiency assessment or just taking advantage of the suite of programs available to Rhode Island consumers, every effort counts."

"I am thrilled the Governor, the state energy office and National Grid are here today to celebrate National Energy Awareness Month," said Doug Sabetti, owner of Newport Solar. "Our state leaders have done so much for renewable energy policy in Rhode Island, and those policies have allowed us to thrive. I particularly want to thank the Governor and our legislative leadership for recognizing that we can improve our environment and our economy with fair, robust renewable energy policies. I look forward to continuing my active role in the clean energy industry."

Look for more announcements and fun ways to participate in National Energy Awareness Month by following us on Twitter (@EnergyRI). For more information on OER programs and initiatives, visit [www.energy.ri.gov](http://www.energy.ri.gov).