



Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources ***Public School Heat-Pump Water Heater Program***

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER), through its Lead by Example (LBE) Initiative, has been working with state agencies for a number of years, developing and implementing clean energy projects. The Heat-Pump Water Heater Program is a new program we initiated with a pilot in 2022 to replace old water heaters in government facilities with energy-efficient heat-pump models that we are pleased to expand to public school districts meeting our equity criteria.

The program is being supported through a combination of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auction proceeds and federal grant funding through the Department of Energy. We will also leverage any available utility-administered energy efficiency funding for each of these projects.

Program Objective

The program provides technical assistance, procurement support, implementation oversight, and financial incentives to Rhode Island Public Schools to accelerate the adoption of clean energy technologies. The new water heaters can provide immediate energy cost reductions, shrink public sector footprints, and support clean energy jobs. The program aligns with the 2021 “Act on Climate” legislation.

Eligibility

Currently, this program's eligibility aligns with the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) Facility Equity Initiative communities. The ten (10) communities currently eligible are: Central Falls, Providence, Pawtucket, Woonsocket, West Warwick, East Providence, North Providence, Cranston, Coventry, and Burrillville. As eligibility expands, we will update this list.

Application Process

- An eligible entity must submit a completed program application.
- Each application will be reviewed for eligibility and other criteria by OER staff. OER reserves the right to request additional information directly from the applicant prior to making its final award determination. Submission of an application alone does not guarantee funding.
- If approved, OER will notify the applicant electronically or in writing.

- Once approved, OER will schedule with the listed contact person an energy audit. This energy audit will generate a scope of work and other procurement documents the applicant can use to competitively bid the project.
- OER will provide the agency with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will describe the financial commitment and terms of cooperation between the parties.
- Incentives offered through this program are made on a first-come, first-served basis and are contingent on the availability of funds. OER – at its sole discretion – reserves the right to accept, reject, or request modifications to any application for reasons including, but not limited to, availability of funding and/or failure to meet all eligibility and other program criteria.

Contact Information

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LEAD BY EXAMPLE
Application for Public Schools
Heat-Pump Water Heater Program

FACILITY INFORMATION	
School District/Municipality:	
School Name:	
School Address:	
Contact Person:	
Title:	
Email:	
Phone Number:	

PROJECT DETAILS	
School area in sq. feet:	
Currently installed size in gallons, type of fuel, and model:	
Number of occupants:	
Natural Gas Account:	
Electricity Account Number:	
Applicant Name and Title:	
Date:	
Signature:	

Please also attach a copy of a recent water bill for the school.