



RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES

2023 – 2028 STRATEGIC GOALS & RESULTS



STRATEGIC GOALS & RESULTS



01 GOAL:

ADVANCE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

- Expand residential adoption of solar through education, develop new resources, and continue to offer long-term renewable energy programs, with increased emphasis on low to moderate income households.
- Continue to collaborate with New England states on the procurement of renewable and zero-emission energy resources – including offshore wind, solar and battery storage – to provide a diverse resource mix supporting the state and region.
- Support the implementation of the Renewable Energy Fund, Renewable Energy Growth Program and Renewable Energy Standard.
- Continue to collaborate with the Northeast states to advance emerging energy resources, energy storage and transmission projects that benefit Rhode Island and the region.
- Advance and integrate policies and programs that align climate change goals, ratepayer costs and benefits, workforce development, and building the State's clean energy economy.
- Strengthen consumer protection for households across the State in collaboration with State agencies, utilities, and elected officials.
- Provide support and grow clean energy internship opportunities for students interested in entering the different energy sectors.
- Continue to evaluate and update existing renewable energy and energy storage programs reflecting changes in federal tax law.

RESULTS:

- OER was involved in the selection of the 704-megawatt Revolution Wind project in 2019. OER has supported advancing this important State energy project, including OER filing legal testimony in coordination with the RI Attorney General's Office during the Trump Administration's attempted illegal stop-work orders in August and December 2025. The Revolution Wind project began to deliver first power onto Rhode Island's energy system in March 2026 and is expected to be fully operational in late 2026. Rhode Island will receive 400 megawatts of capacity from the project.
- OER conducted an updated energy analysis presentation on Revolution Wind's long-term energy benefits to the state in April 2026: <https://energy.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur741/files/2026-04/RI%20Office%20of%20Energy%20Resources%20-%20Assessment%20and%20Analysis%20of%20Revolution%20Wind%20Power%20Purchase%20Agreement%20Presentation.pdf>
- **Awarded and contractually secured a \$49 million competitive federal Solar for All (SFA) grant for income-eligible rooftop and community solar projects. This was the largest renewable energy grant for a specific program effort ever awarded to Rhode Island from the federal government.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency illegally terminated the SFA grants to the awarded states in August 2025. OER filed legal testimony in coordination with the RI Attorney General's Office for the ongoing multistate lawsuit.
- **Over 2,531 residential solar projects and 267 commercial behind-the-meter projects have been awarded over the past 5 years.**
- Over 3,426 small, medium, commercial and large solar projects have been awarded through the Renewable Energy Growth Program over the past 5 years.
- Over 67 behind-the-meter solar projects have supported farmers and agriculture businesses over the past 5 years.
- As of April 2026, over 85 megawatts of renewable energy capacity are currently in the utility interconnection queue.
- Implemented the Residential Solar Energy Disclosure and Homeowner's Bill of Rights Act by developing standardized disclosure forms that are now used statewide.
- Updated the Rhode Island Residential Guide to Going Solar reflecting changes in federal and state solar programs, policy and consumer protection information.
- Released a Request for Information in collaboration with the REF to inform program design for low-income solar adoption.
- Worked with the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation to implement the Solar Retailer registration process.
- One of five states to pilot the Energy Connector, which connects low-income customers with available community solar subscriptions.
- **Conducted a robust program evaluation to redesign incentive levels for the REF Small Scale and Commercial Scale Programs due to federal renewable tax credit repeal by the Trump Administration.**
- Developed the Renewable Energy Growth Program Brownfield Adder Pilot Program.
- Developing a Solar Plug-In Rebate Program.

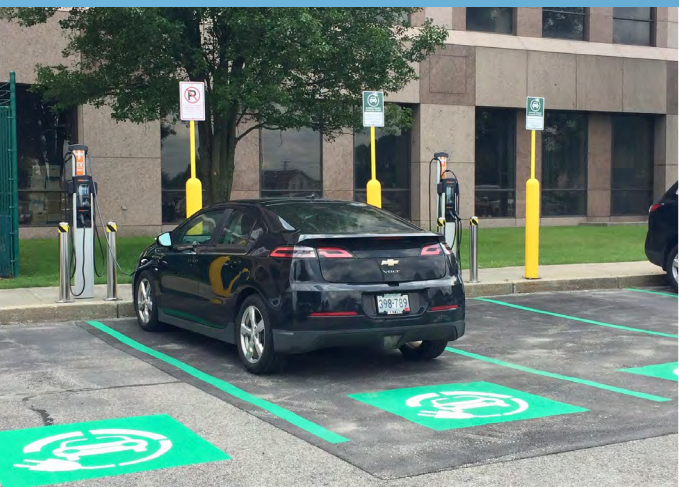
02 GOAL:

OPTIMIZE FEDERAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT STATE ENERGY PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

- Implementation of federal funding for the State's energy efficiency, renewable energy, and grid resiliency policies and programs.
- Support marketplace transformation to aid distributors and manufacturers of heat pumps.
- Increase energy training programs and opportunities, including education outreach on energy building codes.
- Increase collaboration with State, quasi-state agencies, municipalities, and schools to deploy federal funding opportunities.

RESULTS:

- OER was awarded and contractually secured over **\$200 million in federal energy funds** from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act and Inflation Reduction Act.
- **Launched in September 2024, the \$31 million federal Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) Program** to support income-eligible households with Rhode Island's Community Action Agencies. Rhode Island was the first state in New England to launch the HEAR Program.
- **Launched a HEAR dashboard that tracks the progress of the funding awarded across the state:**
<https://energy.ri.gov/incentives/home-energy-rebate-programs/home-electrification-and-appliance-rebate-hear#hear-stats>
- The HEAR Program rebates have provided over \$1 million in home appliance rebates (electric stoves, heat pump dryers, electric panel upgrades) to income-eligible households in 2025.
- Launched the HEAR Moderate Income Pilot Program with 11 municipalities in May 2026 with plans to expand the program to all moderate-income households in late 2026. **Rhode Island was the first state in New England to launch the HEAR Moderate Income Program.**
- Awaiting approval from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to launch the \$32 million Home Efficiency Rebates program that will support heat pump installations in multi-family household properties.
- **Secured \$50 million for the New England Heat Pump Accelerator** (Accelerator) through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in July 2024. The Accelerator is a multistate effort (RI, ME, MA, CT, NH) to increase the adoption of heat pumps in households across New England.
- **Launched in February 2026, the State's \$35 million Accelerator's Market Hub midstream rebate incentive program** to reduce the cost of heat pumps and heat pump water heaters for Rhode Island households.
- The Accelerator's Market Hub will also focus on contractor training and workforce development to further spur the market. The Accelerator's Innovation Hub is focused on overcoming barriers for low-to-moderate-income households and disadvantaged communities.
- Through the Innovation Hub, RI OER has helped design two pilot programs that will help OER scale heat pump solutions for low-income and disadvantaged communities. Read more about the two pilot programs below. In summer 2026, the Accelerator will launch community grants that will provide funding to community-based organizations to test innovative ways to overcome local barriers to heat pump adoption in low- and moderate-income households and communities.
- **Small Multifamily Pilot:** Creates a new incentive stream within CHRI designed to spur heat pump adoption in 2–4-unit residential buildings serving low- and moderate-income (LMI) households.
- **Navigator Pilot:** Provides one-on-one, trusted assistance to households to assist LMI residents with navigating energy programs and incentives to reduce their utility bills. Residents will be supported through the entire process, including education on heat pump options, eligibility screening, support with rebate applications, and guidance on required pre-conditions such as weatherization. By reducing administrative burden and improving program accessibility, the Pilot program will help translate available incentives into on-the-ground adoption.
- **Secured and implemented a \$10 million energy efficiency and clean energy program for public schools**, supported by \$5 million in congressionally directed U.S. DOE funding matched by \$5 million in State energy funds, reducing long-term energy costs for public schools and improving indoor environmental quality for students and school staff.
- **Completed the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, deploying \$1.6 million** in secured federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds in **support of 29 Rhode Island municipalities** with emission reduction projects, including LED streetlighting, building automation, weatherization, geothermal, and HVAC upgrades.
- **Investing in a \$10 million energy efficiency and clean energy program for State-owned facilities**, supported by \$5 million in congressionally directed U.S. DOE funding matched by \$5 million in State energy funds, advancing Lead by Example program targets and reducing long-term utility expenditures for the State.
- Utilizing US DOE technical assistance provided by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the Regulatory Assistance Project, advanced the Integrated Grid Planning Pilot to improve municipal planning engagement.
- **Secured and invested \$762,790** in federal funding in collaboration with the RI Infrastructure Bank to support energy improvements at public and nonprofit facilities.
- **From summer 2021 through December 2024, OER legally secured and was awarded \$208 million in federal funding. As of June 2026, OER is implementing 63% of those federal funds with active projects, programs and/or pending programs with the remaining 37% involved with ongoing federal litigation.**



03

GOAL:

STRENGTHEN ENERGY STORAGE AND GRID RESILIENCE TO IMPROVE ADAPTABILITY AND RELIABILITY OF GRID INFRASTRUCTURE

- Formulate a strategic plan for allocating Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative funds and launch a dashboard to showcase how funds are deployed.
- Implement OER's comprehensive energy storage strategy.
- Advance policies and programs that balance climate change, ratepayer costs and benefits, workforce development, and building the State's clean energy economy.
- Monitor in-state and regional projects for large-scale battery storage developments through regulatory and multistate engagement.
- Develop an energy storage model ordinance for municipalities to use for residential and commercial energy storage systems and provide educational opportunities for municipal officials on energy storage and battery technologies, policies and programs.
- Develop and deploy battery storage safety training for first responders, municipal officials, and other stakeholders.

RESULTS:

- Developed and launched the State's first Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Investment Dashboard in September 2025: <https://energy.ri.gov/climate-change/regional-greenhouse-gas-initiative-rggi/rggi-dashboard>
- Over \$120 million in RGGI funding allocated over the past 5 years to support energy efficiency, household electrification, heat pumps, income-eligible direct rate relief with utility bills, residential and commercial solar, and Lead by Example project efforts.
- Developed and launched the Promoting Resilient Outage Prevention program, made available through \$3.3 million in formula funding through the US DOE, designed to invest in infrastructure upgrades that prevent outages and enhance the resilience of RI's electric grid.
- Advanced multi-pronged State Energy Storage Programs and Strategy efforts:
 - OER and the Renewable Energy Fund launched a solar system paired with energy storage systems rebate program in 2023.
 - OER launched an Energy Storage Rebate (ESR) Program in April 2026. The ESR Program supports standalone energy storage systems for residential and commercial properties.
 - In 2025 and continuing into 2026, OER hired an Energy Storage Fellow to help with deploying energy storage policies and programs and conducting relevant research.
 - Conducted research related to battery storage safety and zoning ordinances in neighboring jurisdictions and across the country.
 - Developed and released Guidance and a Model Energy Storage Ordinance for municipalities to use as a resource to assist in the development of energy storage ordinances at the local level.
 - In 2025, updated the "Inventory of Municipal Solar Ordinances" spreadsheet on OER's website to include battery storage ordinances.
 - Developed and maintains an energy storage dashboard to provide transparent and data-driven insights on RI's advancements toward statutory targets.
 - Procured a vendor for development and facilitation of battery storage safety trainings and is actively working to expand the scope of work to include trainings for multiple audiences. Hosted one battery storage safety training for first responders and developed plans to host a second training in July 2026.
 - Provided education on energy storage by hosting and facilitating a panel presentation on "Understanding Battery Energy Storage: Information for Planners and Decision-Makers" at the 2026 RI League of Cities and Towns conference.

04 GOAL:

ENHANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMS BY MAKING STEADY AND STRONG ENERGY EFFICIENCY INVESTMENTS AND IMPLEMENTING NEW PROGRAMS

- Prioritize thermal emission reductions through weatherization and heat pump rebate incentives.
- Advance policies and programs that balance climate change, ratepayer costs and benefits, workforce development and building the State's clean energy economy.
- Maximize greenhouse gas emissions reductions from utility energy efficiency programs.
- Implement federal home electrification incentives for low- and moderate-income households and multi-unit housing.
- Develop an action plan for implementing building benchmarking and building performance standards for the largest buildings in the state.
- Advance the integration of pre-weatherization and energy efficiency funding sources to address long-standing barriers created by property conditions that prevent energy efficiency improvements.

RESULTS:

- **Launched Clean Heat Rhode Island (CHRI) with \$25 million in September 2023. CHRI has awarded over 4,900 heat pumps to date.**
- CHRI launched a Window Heat Pump Program in 2025. It completed its first project in February 2026 with the Providence Housing Authority Carroll Tower property. This \$1.25 million project installed 277 window heat pump units across the entire building. Preliminary estimates indicate the upgrades could deliver approximately 450,000 kilowatt-hours in annual energy savings, equal to about \$94,500 annually for Carroll Tower, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 219 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent each year. **This was the State's first window heat pump project and the largest installation of this technology type in the U.S. to date.**
- In 2026, the CHRI Window Heat Pump Program will provide an additional \$4 million in funding for additional projects in selected Rhode Island Public Housing Authority properties.
- Launched the Electric Leaf Blower Rebate Program aimed at encouraging the switch to electric leaf blowers from fossil fuel leaf blowers.
- **Partnered with Rhode Island Green and Healthy Homes Initiative to support pre-weatherization and energy efficiency improvements on 45 income-eligible household properties in 2026. OER plans to build on this effort heading into 2027.**
- **Launched a CHRI dashboard that tracks the progress of the funding awarded across the state:**
<https://energy.ri.gov/heating-cooling/clean-heat-ri/clean-heat-rhode-island-statistics>

05 GOAL:

ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES BY PROMOTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Identify current gaps in workforce programs.
- Provide additional support for income-eligible and energy and environmental justice communities.
- Mentor and develop the next generation of the clean energy workforce.
- Raise household incomes through strategic long-term energy investments.

RESULTS:

- OER and REF co-manage the RI Clean Energy Internship Program (CEIP), which offers paid internship opportunities for college students.
- **Through the CEIP, 164 college students have been hosted across 39 companies. Of the 164 interns, 17 were offered opportunities for continued employment, either in full-time or part-time capacity.**
- Since summer 2024, OER and REF have offered professional development programming to accompany the summer round of the internship program. In its third year of implementation, this initiative is now referred to as the Student Training and Experience for Professional Success (STEPS) initiative.
- The STEPS Initiative offers professional development workshops, mentorship opportunities, and networking events.
- Secured \$1.15 million in federal funding through the U.S. DOE Training for Residential Energy Contractors (TREC) grant program, designed to reduce the cost of training skilled labor; provide testing and certifications for contractors; and partner with nonprofit organizations to develop and implement a State-sponsored workforce program.
- **Through TREC, OER has expanded the Clean Energy Internship Program to high school students and provided funding to Building Futures RI to support apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship pathways for the installation of HVAC technology.**

INCREASE CLEAN TRANSPORTATION ADOPTION AND EXPAND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- Increase registrations of battery electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.
- Expand accessible, reliable, and energy-efficient electric vehicle charging infrastructure statewide, with a focus on multi-unit dwellings (MUDs), workplaces, public destinations, and underserved communities.
- Promote and increase the use of electric bicycles.
- Increase the number of residential electric vehicle chargers.
- Develop, implement and maintain clean transportation programs and incentives.
- Strengthen partnerships with stakeholders, including local governments, private sectors, and community organizations, to support clean transportation initiatives.
- Enhance education and outreach efforts to raise awareness of clean transportation benefits and available programs.

RESULTS:

- Launched dashboards tracking the progress of OER clean transportation programs for EVs, e-bikes and PowerUp EV charging equipment for households.
- Launched Clean Transportation dashboards on drive.ri.gov, increasing transparency and public access to real-time program data and progress across our EV, e-bike, and residential EV charging rebate programs.
- EV registrations reached 262% of their 2022 level, rising from 6,275 in 2022 to 16,479 in 2026.
- Successfully completed National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program Phase 1 corridor build-out in July 2024 with four additional Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) stations. **Rhode Island was the first state in the U.S. to complete Phase 1 of the NEVI program, building on prior investments in EV charging infrastructure along the State's federally designated highway corridors.**
- Launched the NEVI Phase 2 as a community-based, statewide program to expand EV charging infrastructure beyond corridors in July 2025. **Rhode Island was the first state in the U.S. to launch the NEVI community EV charging program.**
- Eighteen sites were selected for NEVI Phase 2A awards in April 2026, **supporting over 100 new publicly accessible charging stations across the state, resulting in more than 200 additional charging ports.** These stations are expected to be installed and operational throughout 2026 and 2027.
- In 2026, the State plans to install 12 additional DCFC stations across six State-owned parking lots. Locations include Westerly, Pawtucket, Wakefield, Cranston, Scituate, and Burrillville, with additional sites planned over the next year.
- **Over 3,200 EV rebates awarded through DRIVE EV, totaling over \$6 million**
 - 19.7% of funding awarded to income-eligible applicants.
 - 15,636.73 tons of estimated lifetime CO₂ emissions avoided.
- Over 500 residential EV charger rebates awarded through PowerUpRI.
- **Over 2,000 e-bike rebates awarded through the Erika Niedowski Memorial Electric Bicycle Rebate Program, totaling over \$1.1 million.**
 - 50.7% of funding awarded to income-eligible applicants
- Engaged with over 11 municipalities through grant programs and technical assistance to support local clean transportation initiatives.
- Collected over 500 survey responses statewide to inform EV charging needs.
- OER launched the **ChargeRI Rebate Program** in June 2026 to support the installation of energy-efficient, ENERGY STAR-certified EV charging infrastructure at multi-unit dwellings (such as apartment buildings and condominium complexes), publicly accessible commercial sites, municipalities, educational campuses, and workplaces.

OER PROGRAMS AND INCENTIVES AS OF JULY 2026

Clean Transportation Rebate Programs
drive.ri.gov

Clean Heat Rhode Island Rebate Program
cleanheatri.com

Electric Leaf Blower Rebate Program
energy.ri.gov/climate-change/electric-leaf-blower-rebate-program

Rhode Island Accelerator Pass-Through Heat Pump Rebate Program
nehpa.org/incentives

Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Programs
energy.ri.gov/energy-incentives/home-energy-rebate-programs

Lead by Example Municipal Energy Programs
energy.ri.gov/leadbyexample/municipal-programs

Energy Storage Rebates Program
energy.ri.gov/storage/energy-storage-rebates

Erika Niedowski Memorial Electric Bicycle Rebate Program
drive.ri.gov/erika-niedowski-memorial-electric-bicycle-rebate-program

Lead by Example Public School Energy Programs
energy.ri.gov/leadbyexample/public-school-programs

SUPPORT RI PUBLIC SECTOR TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE AND ACT ON CLIMATE

- Develop and implement clean energy projects on State, municipal and school properties.
- Develop a Building Decarbonization Strategy for the RI Public Sector.
- Complete energy benchmarking for State facilities.
- Increase municipal and public-school participation in the Lead by Example programs.
- Support municipalities in creating and/or executing municipal energy management plans.
- Launch an energy dashboard that tracks the progress of the State's Lead by Example efforts.
- Expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure on State-owned properties.
- Manage energy supply procurement for State government.

RESULTS:

- The Lead by Example (LBE) Program has completed over 113 clean energy projects on State agencies, municipalities and public-school properties.
- Energy benchmarking is underway across large State buildings. OER has benchmarked 25 State buildings to date and set a target of 85 by the end of 2026. OER is building the foundation to extend benchmarking to all municipal and school facilities, including energy benchmarking software to support municipal staff with energy benchmarking efforts.
- Over the past 5 years, with the expansion of the School Energy Program to be a statewide effort and the launch of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program for municipalities, the number of school districts and municipalities working with OER to complete projects has increased significantly. Continued effort will be placed on maintaining and expanding programming that supports these key public sector entities moving forward.
- Through the EECBG program, several communities worked with a contracted energy manager to develop energy management plans for their community that they can utilize as a blueprint for investment and upgrade in the short and medium term.
- Rhode Island was one of the first states in the U.S. to complete the federal EECBG program with 29 municipalities in summer 2026.
- Launched a LBE dashboard showcasing all the investments across the public sector that its program has supported and is currently supporting. <https://energy.ri.gov/leadbyexample/program-dashboards>
- First-time collaboration with the Narragansett Indian Tribe pursuing energy efficiency improvement opportunities with their community across their tribal and cultural facilities.
- Since 2022, the network of electric vehicle charging stations on State properties that OER oversees and manages has continued to grow in support of 200 stations online by 2030. Through the end of 2025, OER increased its station count by 27 stations, bringing its total on State parking lots to 87. There is a robust pipeline of stations being developed, with over 60 charging stations likely to come online in the next 12-18 months, serving a diverse set of users including the general public, commuters and travelers at park-and-ride facilities, visitors, employees, and the State fleet: <https://energy.ri.gov/transportation/ev-charging/state-owned-electric-vehicle-ev-charging-locations>
- OER has continued its long-standing program of administering competitive energy supply procurement processes for both electricity and natural gas. With contracts last signed in 2024 for both commodities, the fixed-rate pricing structure secured by the State has provided cost savings to all participating entities and delivered rate certainty during periods of heightened market volatility marked by extreme weather and unpredictable world events. Rhode Island has also continued to offset 100% of its traditionally purchased electricity supply with New England-sourced renewable energy.
- During 2024–2025, the State program generated cumulative cost savings of approximately \$14.6 million for electricity and more than \$70,000 for its firm-service natural gas accounts — representing approximately 28% savings versus default utility rates. In addition to all State agencies, the OER energy purchasing program currently includes six municipalities, four school districts, and other significant energy users such as the University of Rhode Island and the Narragansett Bay Commission.
- Developing an Energy Savings and Energy Benchmarking Incentive Program for Municipalities scheduled to launch fall 2026.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT: **ENERGY.RI.GOV**

Strategic Goals and Results as of July 2026.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) mission is to lead the state toward a clean, affordable, reliable, resilient, and equitable energy future. OER develops policies and programs that respond to the state's evolving energy needs. OER is committed to working with state agencies, public and private sector stakeholders to ensure that all Rhode Islanders have access to cost-effective, resilient, and sustainable energy solutions, while supporting our Act on Climate objectives.

energy.ri.gov

