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## OER recognizes public sector for renewable energy, energy efficiency achievements at Lead By Example Awards

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Today, the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) recognized 11 state government agencies, quasi-public agencies and municipalities for their renewable energy and energy efficiency achievements at its inaugural Lead By Example Energy Awards ceremony, held at the Rhode Island State House.

Governor Raimondo's [Executive Order 15-17](#), directs state agencies to "Lead by Example" and transition energy supply portfolios and consumption practices to lower-cost, cleaner, low-carbon solutions. Among the Lead by Example directives, the Governor has tasked OER with overseeing and coordinating activities across State government to:

- Reduce electricity consumption by at least 10 percent below 2014 levels by the end of 2019;
- Identify opportunities to support a full transition toward renewable energy sources by 2025;
- Support the integration of clean transportation solutions into the State's fleet; and
- Establish a voluntary stretch building code for use in all state construction and renovation projects.

"It's so encouraging to see that our state agencies, quasi-public agencies and our cities and towns are aggressively tackling their energy goals," said Gov. Gina Raimondo. "Looking at the range of achievements being recognized today, I know we can continue to reach greater heights as we work together across the state to reduce our carbon footprint and make energy more affordable for our residents."

The State's Lead by Example promotes the adoption of clean energy measures across public sector facilities and state agencies. State and municipal employees are helping to reduce energy costs and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, consistent with Rhode Island's economic, energy and environmental policy goals. This work frequently goes unheralded, but is a critical tool in addressing constrained budgets and carbon footprints across government.

"This is the first year we have specifically recognized state agencies and municipalities for their renewable energy and energy efficiency achievements – the response has been phenomenal," said State Energy

Commissioner Carol Grant. “In the challenge to reduce state-wide energy consumption, all of our nominees demonstrated innovating thinking, leadership and teamwork across departments. We are proud of the example they have set for government, businesses and Rhode Island residents.”

#### **Lead By Example Energy Award-Winners:**

- **City of Providence:** The City converted all of its 16,800 streetlights to LED smart-technology fixtures. Providence is also implementing an ambitious plan that prioritizes deep energy efficiency retrofits to reduce energy use for municipal buildings and schools.
- **Narragansett Bay Commission:** The Commission obtained 45 percent of electricity needs from six 1.5 MW industrial class wind turbines and established a goal to obtain all electricity from local renewable energy resources by December 2018.
- **Department of Administration, Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM):** The Division went above and beyond code in achieving overall efficiency improvements, including a major renovation of the Virks building, a former institutional hospital and historic structure that was transformed into offices for the R.I. Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

#### **Honorable mentions:**

- Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities & Carriers
- Rhode Island Army National Guard
- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
- Rhode Island Housing
- City of Cranston and Cranston Public Schools
- Town of Narragansett
- Town of Bristol
- Town of Barrington

***About the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources:*** *The Office of Energy Resources (OER) is Rhode Island’s lead state agency on energy policy and programs. The mission of OER is to lead Rhode Island to a secure, cost-effective, and sustainable energy future. OER works closely with private and public stakeholders to increase the reliability and security of our energy supply, reduce energy costs and mitigate price volatility, and improve environmental quality. By developing and implementing smart energy policies—such as those that promote energy efficiency and renewable energy—OER helps advance Rhode Island as a national leader in the new clean energy economy.*

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