



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

EERMC 2023 Policy Recommendations

Presented By: RI Office of Energy Resources

Date: February 16, 2023





Purpose

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- R.I.G.L. § 42-140.1-5 requires that the EERMC “(s)ubmit to the joint committee on energy an annual report... regarding the activities of the Council, its assessment of energy issues, the status of system reliability, energy efficiency and conservation procurement, and its recommendations regarding any improvements which might be necessary or desirable.”



2022 Policy Recommendations

1. Coordinate efficiency programming with Act on Climate Mandates
2. Concentrate support on clean energy workforce development
3. Continued emphasis & investment in energy program accessibility
4. Embed equity in energy programs



2022 Policy Recommendations

- Coordinate efficiency programming with Act on Climate Mandates
 - The passage of the Act on Climate legislation in 2021 sets mandatory greenhouse gas emission reduction targets that Rhode Island must meet
 - this lens should be used by all involved in developing future energy efficiency plans
 - Energy Efficiency is a key, foundational strategy to achieving the Act on Climate mandates and every effort must be made to coordinate the delivery and expand the programming of our energy efficiency portfolio to help achieve these Act on Climate mandates.



2022 Policy Recommendations

- Concentrate support on clean energy workforce development
 - Achieving economy-wide GHG emissions reductions will require a well-trained workforce
 - Where possible, coordination with existing clean energy programs should be encouraged
 - Historically marginalized communities may offer unique opportunities to both train new workers in fields ripe for employment growth and to better serve these marginalized communities moving forward



2022 Policy Recommendations

- Continued emphasis & investment in energy program accessibility
 - Energy efficiency programs should constantly work to ensure that all customers and segments of the market have access to the benefits of energy efficiency savings
 - Reach those who are economically vulnerable and those who are currently above poverty guidelines, but need significant assistance to make efficiency investments
 - Continued focus and resources should be placed on implementing strategies and providing new and different customer support mechanisms to realize increased participation in energy efficiency offerings from the Income Eligible and Multifamily sectors



2022 Policy Recommendations

- Embed equity in energy programs
 - Emphasize and embed equity considerations in the design and delivery of all state energy programs to ensure that all Rhode Islanders receive the maximum possible benefits
 - Particular attention should be paid towards programs that serve under-represented and disenfranchised communities, such as the income-eligible and multifamily energy efficiency programs
 - Efforts to incorporate the voices and experiences of those most impacted by energy system inequities must continue to be supported and integrated into decision making in order to achieve equitable outcomes



2023 Proposals for Consideration

- Coordinate and supplement efficiency programming with federal funding?
- Align programming with targets set in market potential study data refresh?
- Identify and maximize opportunities for weatherization and addressing pre-weatherization barriers?
- Align programming with federal Justice40 equity guidelines?
- What else?