



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

# OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES

## 2024 Energy Efficiency Priorities

### 1. Align energy efficiency with the 2021 Act on Climate

- Ensure energy efficiency (EE) is contributing toward the State's economy-wide goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 45% below 1990 levels by 2030
- Pursue opportunities identified in the 2023 market potential study data refresh
- Develop strategies to phase out incentives for fossil fuel appliances and central air conditioning

### 2. Coordinate energy efficiency programming with State and Federal programming

- Coordinate with State agencies, including the Office of Energy Resources (OER), to make efficiency programs simple for customers to understand and access
- Streamline and coordinate communications on energy efficiency opportunities as federally funded programs become available to enhance the utility's incentives and/or pair incentives with State offerings

### 3. Design energy efficiency programming with equity at the forefront

- Seek innovative solutions to reduce barriers for renters to access EE programming and receive measurable benefits, building off the recommendations from the non-participant and multifamily census studies
- Establish bidirectional flows of information between trusted community partners and leaders
- Promote broad public education of energy efficiency, including a particular focus on reaching community-based organizations serving disadvantaged communities as defined by the US Department of Energy
- Support and promote workforce development and educational opportunities in efficiency industries
- Implement the recommendations of the Equity Working Group and report out on metrics of success regularly to stakeholders, with a particular emphasis on:
  - Developing multilingual marketing and outreach materials
  - Hiring multilingual staff, and promoting these opportunities to local communities and candidates
  - Partnering with home visiting programs to expand reach of EE programs

### 4. Responsible stewardship of ratepayer funds

- Identify opportunities to streamline the customer experience with easy-to-understand application processes for rebates and incentives
- Pursue opportunities to leverage federal funds to bolster energy efficiency programming when possible

### 5. Grow and expand active demand response programming\*

- \*Note that while demand response (DR) is not direct EE programming, OER would like to include this priority here to coordinate efforts as RIE has traditionally developed and filed their DR plans within the EE plans
- Pursue cost-effective opportunities identified in the 2023 market potential study data refresh
- Dedicate staff to managing, promoting, and growing the DR programs
- Plan for long-term development of DR programming with yearly enrollment goals, detailed marketing plans, and engagement with solar installers and other stakeholders to promote the programs
- Integrate DR programming with interconnection processes and ensure awareness of DR programs with the interconnection and billing teams
- Explore options for tiered and increased incentive levels in DR programming for low- and moderate-income customers