



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

OFFICE OF
ENERGY RESOURCES

Senate Finance Committee Hearing

Thursday, March 6, 2025





Overview

- ✓ The Office of Energy Resources was established by the General Assembly in 2006.
- ✓ OER is staffed with 16 FTEs and 10 contracted positions.
- ✓ Provide support to homeowners, small businesses, commercial/industrial customers, non-profits, farmers, federal government, schools and municipalities on energy matters.
- ✓ Oversight and development of renewable energy and energy efficiency programs and policies.
- ✓ Implementation of federal funding received by the U.S. Department of Energy and other federal agencies.
- ✓ Oversight and support of energy functions (monitoring utilities outages, delivered fuel (heating oil, gasoline supplies) terminals with the RI Emergency Management Agency during storms and extreme weather events.



2025-2028 Strategic Plan

1. Advance renewable energy programs and policies
2. Optimize federal funding to support state energy programs and policies
3. Strengthen energy storage and grid resilience to improve adaptability and reliability of grid infrastructure
4. Enhance energy efficiency and electrification programs by making steady and strong energy efficiency investments and implementing new programs
5. Enhance opportunities for disadvantaged communities by promoting workforce development and energy and environmental justice
6. Increase clean transportation adoption and expand support programs
7. Support RI public sector to lead by example and act on climate

[Link to OER Strategic Plan](#)

IIJA and IRA Funding

FORMULA FUNDING

- Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund Capitalization Grant Program - **\$762,790**
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program - **\$1.6 million to OER for 29 municipalities/\$1.089 million directly to 10 municipalities**
- Grid Resilience Infrastructure Improvements – Section 40101(d) - **\$8 million total with \$4.7 million for FY22-24 received to date**
- National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure – **\$22.9 million over 5 years**
- State Energy Program - **\$3.2 million**
- Training Residential Energy Contractors - **\$1.1 million**
- Home Energy Rebates Programs - **\$64 million**

COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATIONS

- Electric Vehicle Charging and Fueling Infrastructure – **\$15 million**
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund - Solar for All Program - **\$49.3 million**
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant – New England Heat Pump Accelerator - **\$450 million (\$35 million to RI)**
- Resilient and Efficient Code Implementation - **\$1.6 million**



Heat Pump Program

Clean Heat RI – Heat Pump Incentive Program

- ✓ \$25 million program (allocated to the State Fiscal Recovery Fund from the American Rescue Plan Act) to assist homeowners, small-to-mid-size businesses, and non-profits with the purchase and installation of heat pumps.
- ✓ As of 3/3/25, **4,222 rebates were awarded**, totaling **\$17,482,976**.
- ✓ Due to limited funding, applications are no longer being expected
 - ✓ Commercial/nonprofit closed on December 6, 2024
 - ✓ Residential closed on January 15, 2025
 - ✓ Income-eligible closed on March 3, 2025
 - ✓ All projects that were approved before closing will be paid off over several months

<https://cleanheatri.com/resources/program-statistics/>



Clean Transportation

Rebate Programs

DRIVEEV

- ✓ Rebate program for electric vehicles (EVs)
- ✓ Open to RI residents, small businesses, non-profits, and public sector entities
- ✓ **2,301** rebates awarded as of 1/31/2025

<https://drive.ri.gov/statistics/drive-ev-project-statistics>

Erika Niedowski Memorial Electric Bicycle Rebate Program

- ✓ Rebate Program for E-Bikes
- ✓ Open to RI Residents only
- ✓ **1,442** rebates awarded as of 1/31/2025

<https://drive.ri.gov/statistics/e-bike-program-statistics>

PowerUp RI

- ✓ Rebate Program for residential EV chargers
- ✓ Open to RI residents and landlords
- ✓ **142** rebates awarded as of 1/31/2025

<https://drive.ri.gov/powerupri-statistics>



Lead by Example

Executive Order 23-06 – May 2023

- ✓ Sets targets to align state agencies with Act on Climate goals and provide support to state agencies, municipalities, and schools
- ✓ OER benchmarked 16 buildings in 2024 and plans to benchmark a total of 45 in 2025. In 2026, we would look to benchmark an additional 45 buildings

As of January 2025

- ✓ \$27 million federal and state investment in energy-efficiency projects for state buildings, municipal, and school facilities

Projects

- ✓ 60 projects in the pipeline representing about \$22 million in federal and state investments over the next 2-3 years

Example: Providence Public Schools

- ✓ LED lighting and building controls retrofits in 18 schools, seven completed
- ✓ Totaling \$5.5 million



Offshore Wind

Rhode Island 2nd Offshore Wind Project

- ✓ The 704-megawatt (MW) Revolution Wind project (400 MW to RI and 304 MW to CT) is under construction and is expected to be operational in 2026.

Largest Offshore Wind Selection in New England History

- ✓ Rhode Island and Massachusetts selected **2,878** MW of offshore wind in the first coordinated procurement of its kind
- ✓ Massachusetts selected **2,678** MW in total from three projects, and Rhode Island selected **200** MW from one project.
- ✓ The Power Purchase Agreement is expected to be finalized by March 31, 2025. Other state and federal actions will be required before construction begins and the project is not expected to be operational until 2030.



Questions/Comments