

Rhode Island Policy & Incentives Highlights



Disclaimer: Not a comprehensive summary of the policies and incentives applicable in the state. Visit www.dsireusa.org or local utility websites for additional programs and details.

Definitions

Building Codes	Building Performance Standards	Incentives & Rebates
<p>Model Building Codes: National consensus-based codes like ASHRAE® Standard 90.1 and IECC</p> <p>State Building Codes: Often based on model codes, but can be unique to local market</p> <p>Stretch Building Codes: A locally mandated code or alternative compliance path that is more aggressive than base code</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (BPS) Complements building energy codes; the 2 strategies work in tandem to improve building performance• State/City laws that require existing buildings to improve energy efficiency and/or carbon emissions• Typically, includes energy efficiency, water conservation, indoor air quality and indoor environmental standards	<p>Prescriptive: includes...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct 1:1 replacement for commonly installed equipment• Specific dollar amounts for completing qualifying energy efficiency measures <p>Custom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on energy saved over a specified baseline period• Calculated in terms of peak kW, kWh, therms or per sq ft to be saved by efficiency measure or equipment

Current Policies and Trends

Office of Energy Resources

- The Office of Energy Resources (OER) is Rhode Island's lead state agency on energy policy and programs. [About OER | Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources \(ri.gov\)](#)
- For more information on OER's major initiatives, please visit the following pages: [Major Initiatives | Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources](#)
- For more information on Rhode Island Energy Laws - [Learn about the major energy laws enacted in Rhode Island](#)
- [Zero-Energy And High-Performance Buildings | Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources \(ri.gov\)](#)

Act on Climate Rhode Island

On April 14, 2021, Governor Dan McKee signed into law the [2021 Act on Climate](#), which sets enforceable climate emissions reduction mandates. This legislation updates the previous 2014 Resilient Rhode Island Act, positioning the state to boldly address climate change and prepare for a global economy that is shifting to clean energy.

Climate / Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Mandates:

- 45% below 1990 levels by 2030
- 80% below 1990 levels by 2040
- Net-zero emissions by 2050

The EC4 is now developing a plan to incrementally reduce climate emissions and meet the Act on Climate goals with the '[2025 Climate Action Strategy](#)'. This strategy will be a comprehensive working document that will be updated every five years thereafter.

[Zero Energy Building Pathway to 2035](#) - Whitepaper Report of the Rhode Island Zero Energy Building Task Force

Available Incentives and Rebate Programs

Here are some of the State rebates and incentives available to commercial businesses. For more information, visit the commercial business section of the [Rhode Island Office of Energy website](#).

Rhode Island Rebounds Ventilation Program

The Rhode Island Rebounds Ventilation Program through RI Commerce is a statewide effort to improve indoor air quality in an effort to reduce the transmission rate of COVID-19 and support small businesses recovery. Funds will be used to assist in making purchases and completing projects that improve indoor air quality of impacted small businesses.

To learn more about the program, visit: <https://commerceri.com/ri-rebounds/Ventilation/>

Custom incentives for new construction and major renovations

Rhode Island Energy is offering financial incentives to its commercial customers who are building new facilities or undergoing major renovations. This incentive can be up to 75% of the cost of the project. To learn more about this program, please visit:

<https://www.rienergy.com/RI-Business/Energy-Saving-Programs/rebate-programs?regionkey=ri&customertype=business>.

Custom incentives for retrofit projects

Rhode Island Energy offers incentives of up to 50% of the total cost to upgrade to energy efficiency equipment for facilities. To learn more about this program, please visit: <https://www.rienergy.com/RI-Business/Energy-Saving-Programs/rebate-programs?regionkey=ri&customertype=business>.

Instant Point of Sale energy-saving incentives on HVAC systems, heat pumps, variable refrigerant flow systems, PEI Pumps, and ERV/HRV technologies

Rhode Island Energy offers incentives for energy efficient HVAC systems at a discounted price for their commercial customers. To learn more about this program, please visit: <https://www.rienergy.com/RI-Business/Energy-Saving-Programs/rebate-programs?regionkey=ri&customertype=business>.

Retrofit lighting for your existing facility – save up to 45%

Rhode Island Energy offers technical guidance and financial incentives that will cover up to 45% of the equipment and installation costs. To learn more about this program, please visit: <https://www.rienergy.com/RI-Business/Energy-Saving-Programs/rebate-programs?regionkey=ri&customertype=business>.

State-of-the-art efficiency with new chiller technology and design

Rhode Island Energy supports its commercial customers with designing and implementing energy efficient chiller technology. To learn more about this program, please visit: <https://www.rienergy.com/RI-Business/Energy-Saving-Programs/rebate-programs?regionkey=ri&customertype=business>.

Cold Storage

Rhode Island Energy offers a rebate of up to \$1,500 per unit on qualifying cold storage equipment for vaccine storage. To apply, visit: <https://www.rienergy.com/RI-Business/Energy-Saving-Programs/rebate-programs?regionkey=ri&customertype=business> for more information.

Want to learn how energy efficiency can benefit your business? Rhode Island offers a number of programs and incentives for energy efficiency.

- Rhode Island Energy: [Energy-Efficiency Programs for Businesses | Rhode Island Energy \(rienergy.com\)](#)
- Business: [Energy Efficiency For Businesses | Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources \(ri.gov\)](#)
- Farming & Agriculture: [Energy Efficiency And Renewable Energy Programs For Farms | Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources \(ri.gov\)](#)
- Public Entities: [Energy Efficiency For Public Entities | Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources \(ri.gov\)](#)

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

[Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy \(C-PACE\)](#) is a financing program that allows commercial property owners to repay the costs of energy efficiency or renewable energy projects in conjunction with their property tax payments. [Click here for more information on C-PACE.](#)

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DCRB-SLB014-EN
5/08/2024