Source: http://www.energy.ri.gov/policies-programs/ri-energy-laws/

Summary List of Rhode Island Energy Policies

Summary Table	Customer choice	Equity	Renewable energy	Energy efficiency / System efficiency	Biofuels	Energy security / Independence / Local generation	Reliability / Resiliency	Economic development / Growth	Job creation	Price stability / Cost reduction	Cost-effectiveness	Environmental quality	Air quality / Health risks	GHG reductions	Customer resources	Utility resources	Risk reduction	Fuel diversity
Rhode Island Utility Restructuring Act (1996)	■			■				■		■		■	■					■
Renewable Energy Standard (2004)			■						■	■		■						
Least-Cost Procurement (2006)				■			■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■			
Implementation of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Act (2007)			■	■		■						■	■	■				
Long-Term Contracting Standard for Renewable Energy (2009)			■					■	■	■		■						
Revenue Decoupling (2010)				■			■									■	■	
Distributed Generation Standard Contracts Program (2011)			■				■	■		■		■		■				■
Net Metering (2011)			■			■	■	■		■		■		■	■			■
LIHEAP Enhancement Plan (2011)		■																
Biodiesel Heating Oil Act of 2013 (2013)				■	■	■			■				■	■				
Renewable Energy Growth Program (2014)			■				■	■		■		■		■				■
Affordable Clean Energy Security Act (2014)						■	■		■	■		■		■				
Resilient Rhode Island Act (2014)														■				
Energy 2035: Rhode Island State Energy Plan (2015)			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			■	■

Rhode Island Energy Policy	Description	Legislative/Policy Purpose	Values Relevant to EE Cost/Benefit Analysis
Rhode Island Utility Restructuring Act (1996)	Required utilities to sell off their generating assets, opening up the wholesale electric market to non-regulated power producers, and introducing retail choice.	http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE39/39-1/39-1-1.HTM	• Customer choice • …many of the same values in the cells below
Renewable Energy Standard (2004)	Requires state retail electricity providers to supply 14.5 percent of retail electricity sales from eligible renewable energy resources by 2019.	**§ 39-26-3 Purposes. –** The purposes of this chapter are to define renewable energy resources and to facilitate the development of new renewable energy resources to supply electricity to customers in Rhode Island with goals of stabilizing long-term energy prices, enhancing environmental quality, and creating jobs in Rhode Island in the renewable energy sector.	• Renewable energy • Price stability • Environmental quality • Job creation
Least-Cost Procurement (2006)	Requires state utility providers to invest in all cost-effective energy efficiency before the acquisition of additional supply.	**§ 39-1-27.7 System reliability and least-cost procurement. –** Least-cost procurement shall comprise system reliability and energy efficiency and conservation procurement as provided for in this section and supply procurement as provided for in § 39-1-27.8, as complementary but distinct activities that have as common purpose meeting electrical and natural gas energy needs in Rhode Island, in a manner that is optimally cost-effective, reliable, prudent and environmentally responsible. In the development of the plan, the energy efficiency and resource management council and the electric distribution company shall factor into the combined heat and power plan and program, the following criteria: (A) Economic development benefits in Rhode Island, including direct and indirect job creation and retention from investments in combined heat and power systems; (B) Energy and cost savings for customers; (C) Energy supply costs; (D) Greenhouse gas emissions standards and air quality benefits; and (E) System reliability benefits.	• Energy efficiency • Reliability • Cost-effectiveness • Environmental quality • Customer resources • Economic development • Job creation • GHG reductions • Air quality • System reliability
Implementation of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Act (2007)	Authorizes Rhode Island's participation in RGGI, the regional electric power sector carbon dioxide emissions cap-and-trade program.	**§ 23-82-2 Legislative findings. –** It is hereby found and declared by the general assembly as follows: (1) Scientific findings indicate that the increase in greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide, is accelerating the natural greenhouse effect resulting in changes in the Earth's climate; (2) Climate changes pose serious health risks to humans, as well as danger to ecosystems worldwide; (3) This act creates a strong incentive for the creation, development, and deployment of more efficient technologies and processes, energy efficiency and renewable energy supplies which will lead to less dependence on the import of fossil fuels. (4) Rhode Island's implementation of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, (hereinafter referred to as "RGGI"), should be managed to maximize the state's contribution to lowering carbon emissions while minimizing impacts on electric system reliability and costs to Rhode Island power consumers over the long term. Adoption and use of cost-effective energy-efficient products and programs and the strategic use of low and zero carbon generation are the best means to achieve these goals.	• Environmental quality • Health risks • Energy efficiency • Renewable energy • Energy independence • GHG reductions

		(5) It is the intent of the general assembly in enacting this chapter that the state of Rhode Island shall fulfill the mutual understandings and commitments of the regional greenhouse gas initiative so that the state may fully participate in that initiative and all sales or auctions and other proceedings as may be established under that initiative.	
Long-Term Contracting Standard for Renewable Energy (2009)	Required electric distribution utilities to enter into long-term contracts for a minimum of 90 MW of newly developed renewable energy resources by December 31, 2014.	**§ 39-26.1-1 Purpose. –** The purpose of this chapter is to encourage and facilitate the creation of commercially reasonable long-term contracts between electric distribution companies and developers or sponsors of newly developed renewable energy resources with the goals of stabilizing long-term energy prices, enhancing environmental quality, creating jobs in Rhode Island in the renewable energy sector, and facilitating the financing of renewable energy generation within the jurisdictional boundaries of the state or adjacent state or federal waters or providing direct economic benefit to the state.	• Renewable energy • Price stability • Environmental quality • Job creation • Economic development
Revenue Decoupling (2010)	Established a new cost recovery mechanism for utility distribution system investments.	**§ 39-1-27.7.1 Revenue decoupling. –** (a) The general assembly finds and declares that electricity and gas revenues shall be fully decoupled from sales pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and further finds and declares that any decoupling proposal submitted by an electric distribution company as defined in subdivision 39-1-2(12) or gas distribution company included as a public utility in subdivision 39-1-2(20) that has greater than one hundred thousand (100,000) customers, shall be for the following purposes: (1) Increasing efficiency in the operations and management of the electric and gas distribution system; (2) Achieving the goals established in the electric distribution company's plan for system reliability and energy efficiency and conservation procurement as required pursuant to subsection 39-1-27.7(c); (3) Increasing investment in least-cost resources that will reduce long-term electricity demand; (4) Reducing risks for both customers and the distribution company including, but not limited to, societal risks, weather risks and economic risks; (5) Increasing investment in end-use energy efficiency; (6) Eliminating disincentives to support energy efficiency programs; (7) Facilitating and encouraging investment in utility infrastructure, safety, and reliability; and (8) Considering the reduction of fixed, recurring customer charges and transition to increased unit charges that more accurately reflect the long-term costs of energy production and delivery.	• System efficiency • Reliability • Energy efficiency • Risk reduction • Utility resources
Distributed Generation Standard Contracts Program (2011)	Required electric distribution utilities to enter into long-term contracts for 40 MW of newly developed renewable energy resources located in the electric distribution utility's load zone by Dec. 30, 2014.	**§ 39-26.2-2 Purpose. –** The purpose of this chapter is to facilitate and promote installation of grid-connected generation of renewable energy; support and encourage development of distributed renewable energy generation systems; reduce environmental impacts; reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change by encouraging the local siting of renewable energy projects; diversify the state's energy generation sources; stimulate economic development; improve distribution system resilience and reliability; and reduce distribution system costs.	• Renewable energy • Environmental quality • GHG reductions • Fuel diversity • Economic development • Resilience and reliability • Reduce distribution costs
Net Metering (2011)	Establishes net metering for self-generator-sited renewable energy.	**§ 39-26.4-1 Purpose. –** The purpose of this chapter is to facilitate and promote installation of customer-sited, grid-connected generation of renewable energy; to support and encourage customer development of renewable generation systems; to reduce environmental impacts; to reduce carbon emissions that	• Renewable energy • Customer resources • Environmental quality

		contribute to climate change by encouraging the local siting of renewable energy projects; to diversify the state's energy generation sources; to stimulate economic development; to improve distribution system resilience and reliability; and to reduce distribution system costs.	• GHG reductions • Local generation • Fuel diversity • Economic development • Resilience and reliability • Reduce distribution costs
LIHEAP Enhancement Plan (2011)	Authorizes supplemental funding assistance for low-income energy customers in Rhode Island.	**§ 39-1-27.12 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Enhancement Plan. –** (a) The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Enhancement Plan (hereinafter "LIHEAP Enhancement Plan") is hereby created to supplement the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program ("LIHEAP") funding being received by customers of Rhode Island electric and gas distribution companies.	• Equity
Biodiesel Heating Oil Act of 2013 (2013)	Requires all No. 2 distillate heating oil sold in the state to contain 5 percent of a bio-based product by 2017.	**§ 23-23.7-2 Statement of intent and purpose. –** The intent and purpose of this chapter is to encourage the production of biofuels in the state of Rhode Island, to help create jobs in the emerging biofuel industry, to improve air quality, to reduce Rhode Island greenhouse gas emissions, to promote the installation and use of more efficient heating equipment and to promote more energy independence by requiring heating oil sold in the state of Rhode Island to contain biodiesel-blended heating oil.	• Biofuels • Job creation • Air quality • GHG reductions • Energy efficiency • Energy independence
Renewable Energy Growth Program (2014)	Expands the Distributed Generation Standard Contracts Program by establishing a new tariff-based system designed to finance an additional 160 MW of renewable energy resources located in the electric distribution utility's load zone between 2014 and 2019.	**§ 39-26.6-1 Purpose. –** The purpose of this chapter is to facilitate and promote installation of grid-connected generation of renewable-energy; support and encourage development of distributed renewable energy generation systems; reduce environmental impacts; reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change by encouraging the siting of renewable energy projects in the load zone of the electric distribution company; diversify the energy generation sources within the load zone of the electric distribution company; stimulate economic development; improve distribution system resilience and reliability within the load zone of the electric distribution company; and reduce distribution system costs.	• Renewable energy • Environmental quality • GHG reductions • Fuel diversity • Economic development • Resilience • Reliability • Reduce distribution costs
Affordable Clean Energy Security Act (2014)	Establishes a coordinated process for RI to work with other New England states to make potential investments in large-scale hydropower, regional renewable energy resources, natural gas and infrastructure upgrades.	**§ 39-31-2 Purpose. –** The purpose of this chapter is to: (1) Secure the future of the Rhode Island and New England economies, and their shared environment, by making coordinated, cost-effective, strategic investments in energy resources and infrastructure such that the New England states improve energy system reliability and security; enhance economic competitiveness by reducing energy costs to attract new investment and job growth opportunities; and protect the quality of life and environment for all residents and businesses; (2) Utilize coordinated competitive processes, in collaboration with other New England states and their instrumentalities, to advance strategic investment in energy infrastructure and energy resources, provided that the total energy security, reliability, environmental, and economic benefits to the state of Rhode Island and its ratepayers exceed the costs of such projects, and ensure that the benefits and costs of such energy infrastructure investments are shared appropriately among the New England States; and	• Energy security • Reliability • Cost reduction • Job creation • Environmental quality • GHG reductions

		(3) Encourage a multi-state or regional approach to energy policy that advances the objectives of achieving a reliable, clean-energy future that is consistent with meeting regional greenhouse gas reduction goals at reasonable cost to ratepayers.	
Resilient Rhode Island Act (2014)	Establishes greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets below 1990 levels of: 10 percent by 2020; 45 percent by 2035; and 80 percent by 2050.	**§ 42-6.2-8 Powers and duties of state agencies – Exercise of existing authority. –** Consideration of the impacts of climate change shall be deemed to be within the powers and duties of all state departments, agencies, commissions, councils, and instrumentalities, including quasi-public agencies, and each shall be deemed to have and to exercise among its purposes in the exercise of its existing authority, the purposes set forth in this chapter pertaining to climate change mitigation, adaption, and resilience in so far as climate change affects the mission, duties, responsibilities, projects, or programs of the entity.	• GHG reductions
Energy 2035: Rhode Island State Energy Plan (2015)	Sets goals and policies to improve energy security, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability in all sectors of energy production and consumption.	Vision: The vision of the Plan is to provide energy services across all sectors—electricity, thermal, and transportation—using a secure, cost-effective, and sustainable energy system. Goals: **ADEQUACY.** Plan to meet overall energy supply needs **SAFETY.** Increase the safety of energy conversion and use **RELIABILITY.** Increase the system's ability to withstand disturbances **RESILIENCY.** Increase the system's ability to rebound from disturbances **AFFORDABILITY.** Lower overall energy bills **STABILITY.** Reduce the impacts of energy price volatility on consumers **ECONOMIC GROWTH.** Grow and maintain a healthy state economy **EMPLOYMENT.** Increase employment **CLIMATE.** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy consumption **AIR QUALITY.** Reduce criteria pollution from energy consumption **WATER USE & QUALITY.** Reduce the water impacts of energy consumption **LAND & HABITAT.** Reduce the impacts of energy projects on ecosystems Performance Measure Targets: Energy security: Increase fuel diversity in each sector above 2013 levels Cost-Effectiveness: Produce economy-wide net benefits Sustainability: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% below 1990 levels Policies: • Maximize energy efficiency in all sectors • Promote local and regional renewable energy • Develop markets for alternative thermal and transportation fuels • Make strategic investments in energy infrastructure • Mobilize capital and reduce costs • Reduce greenhouse gas emissions • Lead by example	• Energy security • Cost-effectiveness • Sustainability • Adequacy • Safety • Reliability • Resiliency • Affordability • Price stability • Economic growth • Employment • GHG reductions • Air quality • Water use and quality • Land and habitat • Fuel diversity • Renewable energy • Energy efficiency • Alternative fuels