



# New Construction Services

## Overview

Rhode Island Energy's New Construction Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (non-residential) program consists of four main areas of activity:

1. New building projects wherein no structure or site footprint presently exists
2. Addition or expansion of an existing building or site footprint
3. Projects that require design and selection of new systems based on the needs of new or modified space functions
4. Training and assistance to meet building energy codes

The program is designed to promote and support high-performance building design, equipment selection, and building operation. The services help lower a building's operating and maintenance costs throughout its life cycle; increase comfort, health, and productivity for building occupants; and increase sustainability. To achieve all this, the program offers technical and design assistance and financial incentives based on high-performance design and energy efficiency that incentivize building beyond the current energy code baselines.

Customers who participate in the program receive services including technical and design assistance, owner incentives, and design team incentives. To maximize the program benefits, collaboration should occur from the conceptual design stage through project completion. Design assistance can range from simple plan review and efficiency upgrade recommendations to complete technical assistance studies performed by leading energy engineering firms. Financial incentives, to help offset increased design interaction and potential costs of construction, are available for projects that exceed thresholds established by the program.

## Eligibility Requirements for New Construction Services:

- Projects must be at a point where design changes are feasible, preferably in the early conceptual or schematic design phase.
- The participant must be, or must become, a commercial and/or industrial customer of Rhode Island Energy and subject to payment of the Rhode Island System Benefit Charge (SBC) or Local Distribution Adjustment Factor (LDAF) for electric and/or gas service, respectively.

## Process from Start to Finish:

1. Contact Rhode Island Energy
2. Present Conceptual Design
3. Provide Schematic Design
4. Design Development
5. Submit Construction Documents
6. Begin Construction
7. Verify Work is Completed

## Services (See details on reverse side)

### Owner Financial Incentives

These incentives encourage owners to invest in energy efficiency as a major goal in their new buildings. Financial incentives are available to owners when the efficiency of their building exceeds the minimum building energy code threshold.

### Design Team Financial Incentives

Incentives are available to design teams who integrate energy efficiency with exceptional design. The design team may qualify for incentives under the Whole Building Approach option.

### Design and Technical Assistance

Design assistance supports integration of innovative design technologies into new construction projects. Tailored to individual projects, design assistance is available at no cost to building owners and their design teams.

### Trainings

Energy code trainings and technical and documentation support are available to all design professionals, contractors, and building officials serving Rhode Island. In addition, trainings on specific high-performance technologies are available. For more information on trainings, please visit [www.rienergy.com](http://www.rienergy.com)

**For participation information, eligibility requirements, and to request the Participants' Guide, please call 1-844-280-4326 or email [energyefficiency@rienergy.com](mailto:energyefficiency@rienergy.com)**



# Two Approaches to New Construction Program Participation

## Whole Building Approach

The Whole Building Approach is designed for customers who construct a new building or facility from the ground up or a major renovation that triggers code compliance in many areas. The best outcomes require early intervention, communication, coordination, and expertise. We can provide critical support throughout design and construction, maximizing energy savings. There are two different pathways available when participating in Rhode Island Energy's Whole Building Approach:

1. Integrated Design Path for Large Buildings
2. Integrated Design Path for Small Buildings

### Integrated Design Path for Large Buildings

The Integrated Design Path is for buildings larger than 100,000 square feet or smaller buildings of unique complexity that are designed and built to perform better than the current state energy code. The energy code in Rhode Island is based on the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). The target for the code is 15%. This approach generates detailed analyses and recommendations that allow owners and design teams to make informed decisions regarding energy efficiency features. The Integrated Design Path generally results in higher levels of energy savings, and provides higher levels of incentives as a result.

### Integrated Design Path for Small Buildings

The Integrated Design Path for Small Buildings is a comprehensive new construction offering for buildings between 20,000 and 100,000 square feet. Rhode Island Energy must be engaged early in the project's design process. The purpose of the program is to reduce building electrical and thermal energy demand and consumption by implementing cost-effective design alternatives early, before the end of design development, when changes are still feasible. Any building type is eligible with the exception of multi-families, lab buildings, grocery stores or industrial projects (including data centers). However, these exceptions are covered by our Custom Path. Please see Custom Path.

## Systems Approach

The Systems Approach is designed for new construction projects involving a simple building design including basic systems or when focused on one or two aspects of a building's energy use due to a remodel or change in space use type. Rhode Island Energy's New Construction Program encourages customers to think broadly because systems are frequently interrelated and may be more economical to install when walls and ceilings are open or down, or large equipment is being installed. Customers selecting the Systems Approach will utilize the New Construction prescriptive application for each measure for which a prescriptive application exists, or complete a Rhode Island Energy custom application for non-prescriptive energy efficiency measures, which will result in energy savings.

### Custom Path

The Custom Path is designed to facilitate creative and deeper energy savings in systems of a new construction or major renovation project. Custom Path projects rely on engineering calculations to estimate energy savings. Incentives are directly related to a number of variables, total project costs, and associated savings. Eligibility requirements are clearly delineated on the actual custom project application.

### Prescriptive Path

The Prescriptive Path is a standard approach for energy efficiency incentive delivery. There are specific requirements for equipment available under Rhode Island Energy's prescriptive offerings, and each prescriptive application clearly identifies the qualification requirements and the incentive dollars associated with each measure.

**Building Owner Incentives\* for:**  
**Integrated Design Path Large Buildings Program**  
**Integrated Design Path Small Buildings Program**

Electric: \$0.35/kWh + Gas: \$1.70/therm

**Design Team Incentives\*\*:**  
 \$3,000 Energy Efficiency Charrette +  
 Electric: \$0.07/kWh + Gas: \$0.34/therm

\*Building owner incentives capped at 100% of estimated incremental costs.

\*\*Design team incentives capped at \$15,000 total.

FOR ELIGIBLE PROJECTS within Rhode Island Energy's electric and/or gas service territory in Rhode Island. Rhode Island Energy does not guarantee savings. Savings and energy efficiency experiences may vary. Terms and Conditions apply.

These programs are funded by the energy efficiency charge on all customers' utility bills, in accordance with Rhode Island law.

©2023 The Narragansett Electric Company, Inc. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy. All Rights Reserved.