

# Rhode Island Residential New Construction (RNC) and Renovation Program & Zero Energy Homes



## Program Description

Rhode Island Energy offers no-cost services and incentives to help you renovate or build an energy efficient home with lower operating costs and increased durability and comfort. Working in partnership with the builder and/or owner, the Residential New Construction (RNC) Program offers energy modeling, design assistance and in-field inspections to help customers achieve energy efficient homes. In addition to the technical support, RNC offers financial incentives to help offset incremental costs for a higher efficiency home.

### Program Serves

- New construction, gut rehabs, major renovations & additions
- Adaptive re-use (e.g. mill building conversions)
- Single family, townhouses & apartments
- Market-rate & affordable housing

### Benefits and Services Include

- HERS Rating
- Optional ENERGY STAR® verification for homes seeking certification
- Support for projects seeking additional certifications such as DOE Zero Energy Ready, Passive House/PHIUS, LEED-H and Living Building Challenge
- Energy modeling & design assistance
- Building performance testing
- On-site trainings
- Energy code compliance documentation

### Performance Incentive Pathways

RNC offers whole house performance incentives ranging from \$200 to \$4,000 per home in addition to rebates for qualifying high efficiency heating, cooling, and hot water equipment. Projects with >75 units are eligible for custom incentives (contact the program for additional details).

There are two pathways available: **Path to Energy Efficiency**, which provides support and incentives for homes achieving a minimum of 15% energy savings and **Path to Zero Net Energy**, which provides additional support and incentives for builders and homeowners looking to achieve high performance certifications such as DOE's [Zero Energy Ready Home](#), [Passive House/PHIUS](#), and/or to meet the requirements of the [current RI residential stretch code](#).

### Tax Credits and Additional Incentives

In addition to the services and incentives offered by Rhode Island Energy, there are [federal tax credits](#)<sup>1</sup> available for energy efficient new construction, as well as rebates for high efficiency heat pumps and heat pump water heaters from [Clean Heat Rhode Island](#)<sup>2</sup>. Customers are responsible for applying for these separately from the RNC Program.

1. [https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal\\_tax\\_credits/federal\\_tax\\_credit\\_archives/tax\\_credits\\_home\\_builders](https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits/federal_tax_credit_archives/tax_credits_home_builders)
2. <https://cleanheatri.com/>

**For additional information including available incentives please contact 1-888-887-8841.**



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## Path to Energy Efficiency

A Program HERS Rater will review your plans to determine which incentive level the home will achieve and will perform inspections during the construction process to verify actual performance.

High Efficiency Electric Homes can qualify for an additional incentive if they meet the following requirements:

- Achieve Tier II or Tier III Path to Energy Efficiency incentive level (see below)
- Be Fossil Fuel Free\*
- Install heat pumps from [NEEP's RI Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pump List](#)
- Submit an [ACCA approved Manual J load calculation](#) for review to ensure proper sizing
- Use an [HVAC Check approved contractor](#)

Path to Energy Efficiency Incentives					
Energy Savings Levels	Air Leakage	1-4 Unit Bldg	5-10 Unit Bldg	11-30 Unit Bldg	31-75 Unit Bldg
Tier I 15-25% savings	≤ 5.0 ACH50	\$500	\$300	\$250	\$200
Tier II 26-39% savings	≤ 4.0 ACH50	\$1,500	\$750	\$600	\$500
Tier III 40%+ savings	≤ 3.0 ACH50	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,000
ENERGY STAR® certified (additional)		\$200	\$150	\$100	\$100
High Efficiency Electric Homes (additional)		\$1,000	\$500	\$250	\$250

## Path to Zero Net Energy

To qualify for the additional incentives below (either Option A or Option B) projects must:

- Enroll during the early design phase
- Achieve Tier II or Tier III Path to Energy Efficiency incentive level (see above)
- Be Fossil Fuel Free\*

Projects seeking Passive House certification (Option B) are eligible to receive incentives in three installments:

- PHIUS Enrollment/Design Charrette
- PHIUS Pre-certification
- PHIUS Certification

Path to Zero Energy Ready Incentives				
Zero Energy Ready Options	1-4 Unit Bldg	5-10 Unit Bldg	11-30 Unit Bldg	31-75 Unit Bldg
<b>Option A:</b> DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Certified <sup>1</sup> , or Compliant with Current Version of the RI Stretch Code <sup>2</sup>	\$1,000	\$750	\$500	\$500
<b>Option B:</b> Passive House Certified <sup>3</sup>	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$900	\$750

\* Electric equipment must be used for primary space heating, water heating, cooking, cleaning, and all appliances

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1. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/zero-energy-ready-home>
2. <http://www.energy.ri.gov/policies-programs/lead-by-example/rhode-island-stretch-codes.php>
3. <http://www.phius.org/home-page>