

# 2026 Residential New Construction (RNC) and Renovation Program and Zero Energy Homes



**Rhode Island Energy™**  
**Efficiency Programs**

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 and additions
- Adaptive re-use (e.g. mill building conversions)
- Single family, townhouses, and apartments
- Market-rate and 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 Efficient New Homes Certification and Passive House/PHIUS
- Energy modeling and design assistance
- Building performance testing
- On-site trainings
- Energy code compliance documentation

## Program Incentives

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).

RNC also offers support and incentives for builders and homeowners looking to achieve high performance certifications such as [ENERGY STAR](#), DOE's [Efficient New Homes Program](#) and [Passive House/PHIUS](#), and/or to meet the requirements of the [current RI Residential Stretch Code](#). However, understanding and meeting the requirements of those additional certifications are ultimately the responsibility of the project design and construction team.

## Non-Program Incentives

In addition to the services and incentives offered by Rhode Island Energy, rebates may be available for high efficiency heat pumps and heat pump water heaters from [Clean Heat Rhode Island](#)<sup>1</sup>. Customers are responsible for applying for these separately from the RNC Program.

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

<sup>1</sup>[CleanHeatRI.com](#)



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## Whole House Performance Incentives

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.

Whole House Performance Incentives				
Energy Savings Levels	1-4 Unit Building	5-10 Unit Building	11-30 Unit Building	31-75 Unit Building
Tier I 5 - 25% Savings	\$500	\$300	\$250	\$200
Tier II 26-39% Savings	\$1,500	\$750	\$600	\$500
Tier III 40%+ Savings	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,000

## Additional Certification and Program Incentives

Projects may qualify for any/all incentives listed in table below if they meet RNC Program requirements noted below.

### Projects seeking incentives for achieving RI Stretch Code, DOE Efficient New Homes and/or Passive House certification must:

- Enroll during the early design phase
- Achieve Tier II or Tier III Performance Incentive level (see above)
- Be Fossil Fuel Free\*

### Projects seeking the High Efficiency Electric Homes program incentive must:

- Achieve Tier II or Tier III Performance Incentive level (see above)
- Be Fossil Fuel Free\*
- Install heat pumps from [Rhode Island Energy'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 participating contractor](#)

Additional Certification and Program Incentives				
Certification Achieved	1-4 Unit Building	5-10 Unit Building	11-30 Unit Building	31-75 Unit Building
ENERGY STAR Certified	\$200	\$150	\$100	\$100
DOE Efficient New Homes Certified <sup>1</sup> , or Compliant with Current Version of the RI Stretch Code <sup>2</sup>	\$1,000	\$750	\$500	\$500
Passive House Certified <sup>3</sup>	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$900	\$750
High-Efficiency Electric Homes	\$1,000	\$500	\$250	\$250

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

### For additional information including available incentives, please call 1-888-887-8841.

1. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/doe-efficient-new-homes-program>
2. <https://energy.ri.gov/energy-efficiency/public-entities/rhode-island-stretch-codes>
3. <http://www.phius.org/home-page>



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