



State Code Fact Sheet

Rhode Island

Base Code

[Rhode Island's current energy code](#) is based on the 2015 IECC and went into effect on August 1, 2019, with amendments. The adoption of the 2015 IECC will realize modest cost and carbon savings for Rhode Island building owners. The 2015 code also includes improved administration language and compliance pathways. Overall, the adoption of the 2015 IECC by the state will provide a path to increasingly energy-efficient codes and policies in the short and long term.

22,346

(Metric Tons CO₂)

2018-2022 Regional Emissions Savings Potential
with Code Updates

\$1,457,590

2018-2022 Regional Cost Savings Potential
with Code Updates

These savings could:



Pay for **36** students
to attend a four-year
college



Build **11** miles of
new bike lanes



Power **2,413**
homes for one
year

Stretch Code

[Rhode Island's voluntary residential stretch code](#) was developed as part of the 2015 Lead by Example Executive Order (EO 15-17). It is a voluntary code aimed at helping buildings, contractors, and other industry professionals to design and build high-performance homes. It is based heavily on [DOE's Zero Energy Ready Homes \(ZERHs\) program](#) and the [US Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) Water Sense Program](#). These homes are built ready to incorporate on-site renewables and lower the carbon footprint of the home as well as save homeowners costs on utilities.

Quick Facts:

- According to DOE, ZERHs are 40-50 percent more energy efficient than conventional construction
- RI amendment requires solar readiness and HVAC smart thermostats
- One of the few stretch codes to address water efficiency, EV readiness, and indoor air quality
- Offers technical and financial support from National Grid
- Has multiple compliance pathways (prescriptive and performance) and a compliance checklist

[Rhode Island's voluntary commercial stretch code](#) was released in 2018 and is based on the 2015 International Green Construction Code (IgCC). Rhode Island amended the 2015 IgCC to create its

commercial stretch code, which covers existing buildings, water resources, indoor air quality, and emission reduction, includes both performance and prescriptive approaches and offers incentives and support from National Grid.

2015 Code Update

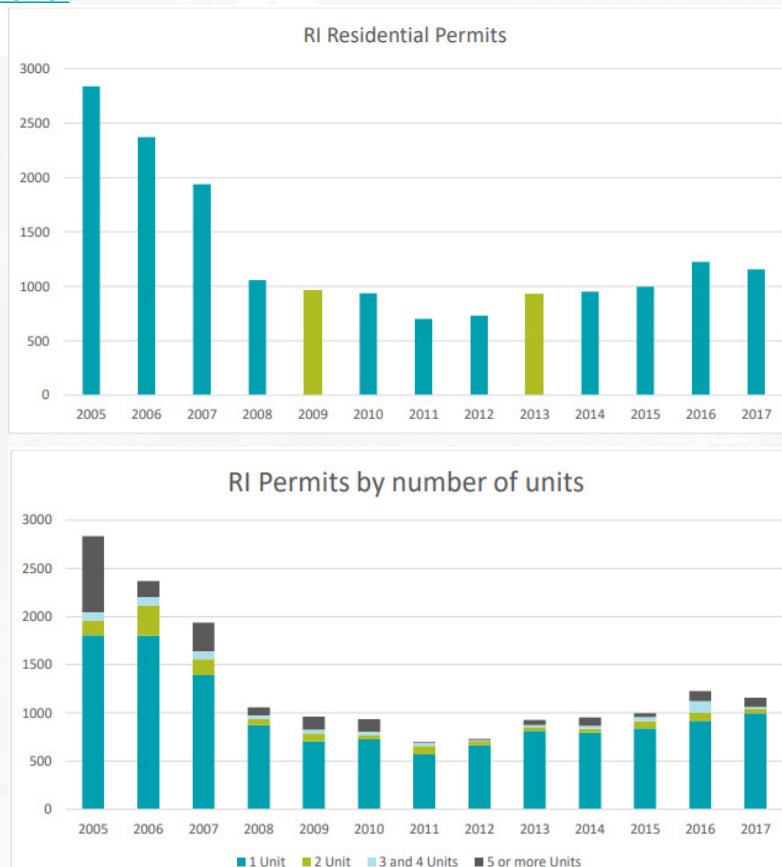
Amendments in both the commercial and residential code sections lowered the overall efficiency of Rhode Island's base code to between 2009 and 2012 IECC levels (~18 percent less efficient than an unamended 2015 IECC). These amendments are primarily in tables C402.1.4, C402.1.3, and R402.1.2 and regard insulation, fenestration, and envelope parameters. Updating to the 2018 IECC levels, which RI is considering, would increase efficiency, prevent thousands of metric tons of carbon emissions, and save millions of dollars in costs.²

Energy Code Attribution - Compliance

Rhode Island, in partnership with National Grid, has a code attribution program that allows the utility to claim savings for energy efficiency achieved via building code. Through utility-supported initiatives such as code compliance studies and training, this program increases compliance and saves energy and costs, allowing the utility to claim savings as a result of its initiatives. Rhode Island's program includes training, resource development, third-party compliance support, and data collection to assist Rhode Island. You can learn more from [NEEP's Exemplar highlighting this program](#).¹

Rhode Island Historical Housing Permitting

Rhode Island housing starts, like many neighboring states in the region, suffered following the 2007-2008 housing crash and remain low. Permitting today can be found in the [US Census](#) and shows single-family housing as the primary permit granted in Rhode Island, different from neighboring states that are developing more multi-family housing programs. Census data also shows an [increase in permitting from 2017-2018](#).



¹https://neep.org/sites/default/files/NGrid%20Exemplar_3.pdf

²<https://neep.org/sites/default/files/resources/Construction%20Codes%20Myths%20%26%20Realities%20-%202018%20Update.pdf>