



Building a Green Workforce

Rhode Island Vocational School Outreach



Green Workforce Development

As part of its Rhode Island Code Compliance Enhancement Initiative, National Grid is helping to bolster the state’s building energy efficiency workforce by offering training on efficient building techniques to vocational and technical high schools and through adult education programs. This outreach is part of a comprehensive strategy to unlock energy savings by achieving increased compliance with the state’s building energy code.

As of June 2015, National Grid has worked with students at the Coventry, Warwick, Woonsocket, Davies and Chariho Career & Technical Centers (see reverse) as well as YouthBuild Providence and Amos House Carpentry & Weatherization Training.

Over 80% of code officials expect to retire within the next 15 years, including 31% in the next 5 years.

<http://media.iccsafe.org/docs/ICC-NBIS-Future-Of-Code-Officials.pdf>

Career Opportunities

- *Building Official:* Code officials are tasked with verifying that building codes, such as the energy code, are properly complied with to ensure the health and safety of building occupants and the general public.
- *Energy Rater / Inspector:* As building energy codes and standards become increasingly efficient, there is a rising need for more individuals capable of conducting the testing, modeling, and rating required to certify that these new buildings meet their required energy efficiency levels.
- *Builder / Developer / Trades:* Practitioners skilled in energy efficient construction will hold an advantage as demand for more efficient buildings continues to increase.

Energy Code Technical Support

In addition to workforce development, National Grid provides free building energy code training, technical support, and documentation materials to code officials, builders, subcontractors, and design professionals in Rhode Island. Visit www.ngrid.com/rienergycode for a calendar of trainings and details on technical support, both over the phone and in-person, or call the program toll free at 1-855-343-0105.



Chariho Career & Technical Center

Charlestown-Richmond-Hopkinton, RI



In November 2014, National Grid’s Rhode Island Code Compliance Enhancement Initiative brought students to a home completing a remodel to conduct an air leakage inspection, which is required under the state building energy code. After students examined the walls, floors, and ceilings for potential air leakage pathways, the group reconvened to run a blower door test to measure the building’s air tightness. Next, the students used this measurement to calculate the home’s air leakage rate. Finally, they learned how else they can apply these skills in the building industry and how more efficient energy codes and standards will increase the demand for workers with these skills.

Students assemble a blower door to test the home’s air tightness

“It is important for tomorrow’s tradesmen to be aware of the upcoming energy code changes and how that affects the way we build”

- Dave Bannister and Tom Spadoni, Chariho CTE Construction Technology instructors



Rob Sherwood of Conservation Services Group explains why the low air leakage rate the students calculated will yield lower utility bills

Commercial Buildings: Additional Opportunities for Emerging Professionals

- **High Performance Schools:** The Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools (NE-CHPS) criteria is a prescriptive roadmap for sustainable school design tailored for the building codes, climate, and educational priorities of the Northeast. In Rhode Island, for example, all new construction and substantial renovation projects are required to meet the NE-CHPS criteria.
- **Job Training:** The U.S. Department of Energy’s new Better Buildings Workforce Guidelines aim to improve the quality and consistency of commercial building workforce credentials for Energy Auditors, Commissioning Professionals, Building Operators, and Energy Managers.

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