



2024 Student Profiles

KAELEY SKAKALSKI

Lebanon, New Hampshire

B.S. Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, May 2025

Kaeley's work with Optimal Energy (an NV5 Consulting company) supported the Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council (RIEEC) in advancing its energy efficiency programs, budgets, and overall energy goals. The RIEEC plays a crucial role in helping Rhode Island achieve its climate objectives by overseeing the state's energy efficiency initiatives to ensure they deliver maximum energy savings. This work ensures that all residents benefit from the cost savings and health improvements associated with energy efficiency measures. Kaeley's contributions supported the Council's goals related to sustainability, equity, and the long-term reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

KATHERINE DOLAN

New Providence, New Jersey

B.S. Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, May 2025

Katie worked with the University of Rhode Island's (URI) Department of Marine Affairs on a research project aimed at deepening understanding of how offshore wind energy affects the social and economic dynamics regionally. The Department of Marine Affairs at URI is dedicated to advancing research on the complex relationship between coastal, marine environments, and human activity. Through its efforts, the department seeks to make meaningful contributions to fostering sustainable interactions between people and coastal or marine systems, promoting balanced and equitable development. Katie's work contributed to a body of research on offshore wind development and its social impacts on coastal communities in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

LAUREN GARDNER

Lincoln, Rhode Island

B.S. Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, May 2025

Lauren worked as the Feinstein Energy Literacy Fellow with URI Cooperative Extension's Energy Literacy Team. In this role, she helped coordinate various outreach initiatives aimed at promoting awareness of income-eligible programs and the benefits of energy efficiency, contributing to the broader goal of fostering a sustainable and equitable environment for all. URI Cooperative Extension focuses on delivering science-based information through its educational programs and community outreach efforts, empowering individuals to apply practical, sustainable solutions in their daily lives. Lauren's contributions supported this mission by bridging the gap between technical knowledge and community engagement.



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EAN NEWMAN

Bristol, Connecticut
B.S. Electrical Engineering, May 2025

Ean worked with The RISE Group, an energy solution provider who offers energy users comprehensive energy-efficiency services to reduce the operating expenses of homes and businesses. Ean assisted with energy audits, helped with design and implementation of energy efficiency upgrades, and assisted with the design of mechanical and HVAC systems. Ean assembled data by attending site visits, pulling from manufacturer information, and calculating potential energy savings from energy efficiency technologies. RISE's work in energy efficiency is propelling the optimization of energy systems toward efficiency and reduced carbon emissions.



LIAM VAN VLEET

Lodi, New York
M.S. Oceanography, Business Administration, May 2025

Liam worked at Rhode Island Energy, the prominent electrical utility in Rhode Island servicing 37 municipalities in the state. Lisa worked with RI Energy's Strategic Partnerships and Community Solutions Team, which is dedicated to reducing energy demand for communities and organizations, thereby alleviating the heavy energy load on the grid. Their work focuses on enhancing energy efficiency and ensuring a more resilient energy system. Liam conducted data analysis related to energy efficiency incentive programs that aim to help the utility maintain reliable energy delivery during periods of fluctuating temperatures and peak consumption hours, supporting grid stability.



LEO EBERMAN

Providence, RI
B.S. Electrical Engineering, May 2025

Leo worked at the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, the state's economic development agency, assisting with the commercial and residential solar project grant process for the Renewable Energy Fund (REF). The REF supports the development and adoption of renewable energy technologies across the state. It provides financial incentives and grants for projects that promote clean energy generation, including solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources. Through the REF, Rhode Island Commerce Corporation is able to implement more renewable energy generation into Rhode Island's grid. This work is crucial in supporting the diversification of energy sources and aiding the transition to cleaner energy in Rhode Island.





Energy Fellows Program

2024 Student Profiles



COLIN SMITH

Middletown, Rhode Island

B.S. Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, May 2025

B.S. Supply Chain Management, May 2025

Colin worked at Silent Sherpa, a provider of energy portfolio management solutions for commercial consumers, including renewable energy integration, energy budget forecasting, and energy procurement. Colin's role included working with Silent Sherpa's Kilowant product, conducting data analysis to provide actionable insights for energy management, market research to identify emerging trends in the energy sector, and enhancement of their web application development. Colin's contributions supported Silent Sherpa's goal of providing innovative solutions to help commercial consumers achieve their energy and sustainability goals.



PATRICK O'MAHONY

Barrington, Rhode Island

Master of Environmental Science and Management, May 2025

Patrick worked with Green Development, LLC a renewable energy developer dedicated to expanding and diversifying Rhode Island's energy portfolio. Patrick assisted with construction management and quality assessment for Green Development's ongoing solar development projects, ensuring that all array installations met high standards of performance and sustainability. By assisting with the implementation of renewable energy infrastructure, Patrick supported Green Development's goal to contribute to Rhode Island's decarbonization efforts to meet the state's goals per the Act on Climate.



ROYALJOHN SOUTHAMMOVONG

Warwick, Rhode Island

B.S. Electrical Engineering, May 2026

Royaljohn worked within the electromechanical department at The RISE Group, an energy company that provides energy services and technology to commercial, industry, government, and residential energy users. Royaljohn conducted data analysis and field measurements with RISE engineers to support their effort to calculate energy demand and potential energy savings for consumers. RISE's work in energy efficiency is driving the optimization of energy systems to enhance efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, minimize environmental impact, and provide year-round comfort.



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MEGAN HEBERT

Coventry, Rhode Island
B.S. Mechanical Engineering, May 2026
B.A. Spanish, May 2026

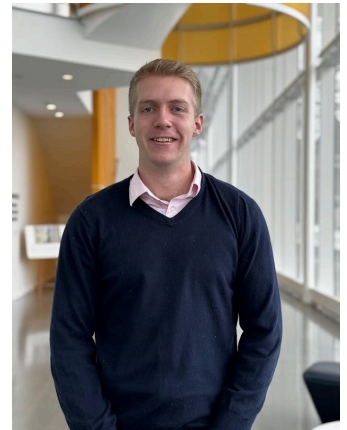
Megan worked with Creative Environment Corp (CEC), a division of The RISE Group, where she played a key role in assessing energy use calculations, evaluating floor plan designs, and assisting with the design of heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) systems. The ultimate goal of CEC is to reduce fossil fuel consumption, optimize energy performance, and make meaningful contributions to the clean energy sector. Throughout her time at CEC, Megan contributed to the company's mission of installing energy-efficient mechanical systems for commercial clients to assist in the transition to cleaner energy consumption.



ATTICUS MAKUCH

Willington, Connecticut
B.S. Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, December 2024
B.S. General Business Administration, December 2024

Atticus worked with the energy efficiency team at Rhode Island Energy, where he conducted and reported in-depth market research, with a specific focus on equity as it relates to energy efficiency programs. His research played a key role in helping the team understand and address the needs of diverse communities across the state. Through his contributions, the RI Energy Efficiency Team is able to develop, refine, and expand energy efficiency initiatives, programs, and opportunities, ensuring they are accessible and effective for all residents throughout the state of Rhode Island.



NATHAN JOLICOEUR

Scituate, Rhode Island
B.S. Industrial and Systems Engineering, May 2026

Nathan worked at the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (RIOER), where he contributed to the state's thermal decarbonization initiative. In this role, Nathan conducted data analysis, validated data, and researched clean heating standards for heating and cooling systems. By focusing on clean heating technologies, Nathan helped further RIOER's efforts to create and implement policies and programs aimed at improving energy efficiency across Rhode Island. These initiatives are central to the state's goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions and fostering a more sustainable, energy-resilient future for all Rhode Islanders.





Energy Fellows Program

2024 Student Profiles



CALEB MAYTUM

Cranston, Rhode Island

B.S. Environmental Science and Management, May 2026

Caleb worked with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Ocean State Clean Cities Coalition (OSCCC), a coalition focused on transitioning to cleaner fuels in the transportation sector. Caleb contributed to stakeholder engagement, market research, data analysis, and newsletter development to support the primary mission of the OSCCC. The organization aims to increase public awareness of alternative fuel vehicles and fuel-saving practices, ultimately working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within Rhode Island's transportation sector.



ARIANNA JIMENEZ

Cranston, Rhode Island

B.S. Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, May 2025

B.S. General Business, May 2025

Arianna worked as a policy researcher with Climate Jobs RI, a coalition of labor organizations and community partners dedicated to fostering the creation of green, clean, and equitable jobs across the state. The coalition is committed to advancing a Just Transition, aiming to build a healthy environment, a robust economy, and a secure energy future for Rhode Island. In her role, Arianna conducted research on public policy reforms, focusing on strategies to support the state's workforce and economic resilience while addressing the challenges of climate change. Her work contributed to Climate Jobs' efforts to ensure Rhode Island achieves an equitable transition to net-zero emissions.



ABEVIAN ALLISON

Cranston, Rhode Island

B.S. Economics, May 2025

Abevian worked with the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources' (RIOER) renewable energy team, assisting with management of RIOER's Clean Energy Internship Program. The Clean Energy Internship Program provides internship opportunities in clean energy careers in areas including marketing, engineering, research, solar, direct construction and energy efficiency. The program offers students opportunities to work with real-world situations in energy and the environment. Abevian developed a marketing plan, collected data on participating organizations and students, and tracked metrics for the program.



2024 Student Profiles

LIAM HART

Warwick, Rhode Island

B.S. Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, May 2025

B.S. General Business Administration, May 2025

Liam worked at the City of Providence Office of Sustainability, an organization dedicated to creating policies and programs that foster a healthy, low-carbon, and climate-resilient city. In his role, Liam was responsible for benchmarking energy usage in municipal buildings and ensuring that these buildings were in compliance with the Building Energy Reporting Ordinance (BERO). By evaluating the energy performance of these buildings, Liam helped identify opportunities for energy efficiency improvements. This process is vital to the Office's efforts to reduce carbon emissions across the City, while also contributing to the broader goal of lowering overall energy consumption throughout Rhode Island.



ABIGAIL ELIAS

Dartmouth, Massachusetts

B.A. Political Science, May 2026

B.A. Public Relations, May 2026

Abbey worked at the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (RIOER) as a member of the communications team, creating energy profiles and communication plans, collecting and utilizing drone footage for visual content, and writing newsletters and press releases to engage and inform various audiences. Through communicating information and encouraging stakeholder participation in energy programs, projects, rebates, and incentives, Abigail supported RIOER's broader mission to advance clean energy and sustainability initiatives. Her efforts helped drive progress towards compliance with goals established in the Act on Climate.



MICHAEL DOWNING

Medfield, Massachusetts

B.S. Environmental Science Management, May 2025

B.S. Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, May 2025

Michael worked at the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (RIOER) with the Agriculture Energy Grant Program, an initiative aimed at fostering renewable energy adoption within the agricultural sector. Michael supported various aspects of the program by compiling data, gathering critical information to assist grant applicants, and engaging with the community by attending farmers' markets to promote the program's benefits. This program plays a key role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions within the agricultural sector by empowering producers to adopt clean energy solutions for their farms.





2024 Student Profiles



HELENA BALBAT

Tyngsborough, Massachusetts
B.S. Biotechnology, May 2027
B.A. Data Science, May 2027

Helena worked with the City of Providence Office of Sustainability, assisting with meeting greenhouse gas emission, energy use and associated cost reduction goals for the City. Helena attended site visits to benchmark buildings, and aided supervisors and energy managers with generating reports on energy use intensity and greenhouse gas emissions. Her efforts supported Providence's broader commitment to equity, resilience and the overarching vision of achieving carbon neutrality to ensure a healthier, more sustainable future for all Providence residents.



EVA DAVET

Hudson, New York
B.S. Civil Engineering, May 2025

Eva worked at the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (RIOER) to assist with policy initiatives around energy efficiency in buildings and attend committee meetings for the Rhode Island Green Buildings Act. The Green Buildings Act aims to promote sustainable building practices by ensuring that large-scale public construction and renovation projects meet high performance green building standards. By contributing to discussions on compliance and implementation of the Act, Eva helped RIOER align public construction projects with the state's broader climate and energy goals.



GEORGIA YOUNG

Woonsocket, Rhode Island
Master of Science and Environmental Management, May 2025

Georgia worked alongside the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Climate Policy Team and the State of Rhode Island's Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) and EC4 Advisory Boards. Georgia's role included analyzing climate policy in various regions and assisting in the preparation of climate-focused federal grant applications to help Rhode Island work towards its goals of achieving net-zero fossil fuel emissions by 2050.
