

## Download the Toolkits



Did you know that 40% of small businesses never reopen after a natural disaster—and another 25% close within the first year? Small businesses are the backbone of Rhode Island's economy. Taking steps today to prepare for unexpected challenges ensures continuity, resilience and growth tomorrow. Scan the QR code to review and download several toolkits and other resources to support your business's resiliency.

## Rhode Island Commerce

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (RI Commerce) is the state's economic development agency focused on fostering business growth, attracting new investments, creating jobs, and strengthening the state's economy. We provide businesses with the resources they need to land, grow, and flourish in Rhode Island. Our suite of supports include grants, loans, tax incentives, regulatory streamlining, and process improvements.

## Technical Assistance Partners

In addition to the one-on-one support offered by our team of Business Engagement Specialists, RI Commerce has developed a diverse network of experienced intermediary organizations that support locally based small businesses with a wide range of technical assistance services.

Learn more at [CommerceRI.com](https://CommerceRI.com).

## Let's Connect



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**RHODE  
ISLAND**  
COMMERCE

# IS YOUR BUSINESS READY FOR THE UNEXPECTED?

Rhode Island Resiliency Guide

**RHODE  
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## RESILIENCY AND PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

**Now is the time to take steps to address climate change, implement sound resilience practices, and remain competitive and profitable. Planning for extreme climate events can also save lives and keep Rhode Islanders working. Download these kits using the QR code provided on the last page of this directory.**

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TOOLS

#### Business Preparedness

The speed of your business's recovery after a disaster depends on the steps you take today. Prepare for unique challenges to stay resilient & get back to business.

#### Build a Disaster Supply Kit

Be prepared with essential items your business may need during an emergency.

#### Create a Crisis Communication Plan

Ensure clear, timely communication during and after a disaster by planning how your business will connect with employees, customers, suppliers, and local authorities.

#### Business Continuity Plan

Safeguard your business—identify risks, key operations, and partners to stay up and running through any disruption with this 12-step plan.

**SBA Disaster Guide—Prepare, Recover, Thrive** Assess your risks, create a tailored emergency plan, and practice it with your team to stay operational through any disaster.

**Ready Business: Plan, Prepare, Stay Resilient** This program helps identify risks, build a plan, and take action to protect your operations from disasters. Access free toolkits, checklists, and planning guides.

#### Preparing for Disaster: Taxpayers

Some simple steps can help taxpayers and businesses protect financial and tax records in case of disasters. These are tips for individuals and businesses on preparing for a disaster.

#### Enhance Your Resilience with a Proven Readiness Framework

Use the comprehensive Business Preparedness Checklist to assess your organization's ability to survive and thrive through disasters.

#### Stay Ahead of Inland Flooding Risks

Understand your business's flood exposure and develop a tailored preparedness and mitigation plan—covering staff, property, systems, structure, and surrounding land—to reduce potential loss and ensure continuity.

**Prepare Your Business for Power Outages** The Power Outage Toolkit offers a step-by-step guide to help businesses assess risks, develop preparedness plans, and take proactive measures to ensure continuity during power disruptions.

**Prepare Your Business for Severe Winds and Tornadoes** Use this toolkit—a clear, step-by-step guide to assess risks, create plans, and take action to ensure continuity and readiness.

#### Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Climate Change Preparedness Toolkit

This guide supports small business owners in both developing a business continuity plan, as well as creating a culture that allows for innovations and transformations.

**Assess Your Flood Risk with MyCoast Business Flood Visualizer** This interactive tool to combine real-time weather, tides, and community photos.

#### Explore STORMTOOLS

Rhode Island businesses can estimate flood risks before they happen.



### RECOVERY AND RESPONSE TOOLS

**MyCoast RI: Snap the Shore, Track the Change** This tool collects and analyzes shoreline photos across Rhode Island, capturing today's flood impacts and highlighting future risks to protect our coastlines.

**Report Damage to RIEMA** If your business has sustained damage from severe weather in Rhode Island, it's crucial to report it promptly to the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA).

**SBA Business Physical Disaster Loans** The Small Business Administration (SBA) makes physical disaster loans of up to \$2 million to qualified businesses and most non-profit organizations. These loans can be used to repair or replace items damaged or destroyed during a declared disaster.

**Connect with RI Emergency & State Agencies** Get quick access to key state contacts to support your business during emergencies.

**Pivot Your Business & Update Your Plan** The SBDC network is the largest SBA-funded Resource Partner and provides one-on-one business advising at no cost to entrepreneurs so you can confidently make tough decisions about the future of your business.

**SCORE: Support for Disaster-Affected Businesses** Small Business Resilience Training can give you the tools to adapt, reopen, and grow successfully through any disaster.

#### Small Business Readiness for Resiliency (R4R) Grant Program

Designed for small businesses with 500 or fewer employees, this program guides businesses through a three-step process to enhance their preparedness and provides grants when a state emergency order or state disaster declaration is made in their county.

### RESILIENCY UPGRADES

#### Energy Efficiency Assessments

Rhode Island Energy provides no-cost energy assessments to help businesses determine what energy-saving solutions are best for you. Call 1-877-784-3709 or email [energyefficiency@RIEnergy.com](mailto:energyefficiency@RIEnergy.com) to schedule.

**Go Solar Providence** Visit Go Solar Providence for tools, installer lists, and everything you need to begin your clean energy journey.

**Community Solar in Rhode Island** Renters, homeowners, and businesses can subscribe to local solar farms—no rooftop panels needed—and save 5–10% on electricity bills. Visit the RI Community Solar Marketplace to explore available projects and start saving.

**The Rhode Island Commerce Renewable Energy Fund (REF)** The Renewable Energy Fund offers Rhode Island businesses grants up to \$75,000 to help lower the cost of commercial-scale solar and renewable energy installations. Combine REF funding with state net-metering and the 30% federal tax credit to maximize savings and speed up your return on investment.

**Energy Incentives in Rhode Island** Rhode Island offers a wide range of state and federal incentives for renewable energy and efficiency projects tailored to homeowners, businesses, farms, municipalities, and nonprofits.

**Rhode Island Green Certification Programs for Businesses** The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) offers voluntary Green Certification Programs to help businesses enhance sustainability and reduce environmental impact. These programs aim to minimize pollution, conserve resources, and promote environmental stewardship.



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**City of Providence Sustainability Office (SustainPVD)** Empower your business with Providence's sustainability programs—cut costs, boost efficiency, and lead in clean energy innovation.

**Providence Community Electricity** This program offers local businesses competitively priced electricity options, including 100% renewable energy plans sourced from Rhode Island-based wind and solar projects. Participating businesses can reduce their carbon footprint, potentially lower energy costs, and support the growth of clean energy in the region.

**The City of Newport's Resilience and Sustainability Office** Strengthen your Newport business with resilience planning and sustainability resources to protect your operations and boost long-term success.

**Food and Waste Ban in RI** Rhode Island has a food waste ban that requires certain businesses and institutions to divert organic waste from landfills if they generate more than two tons of it per week and are located within 15 miles of an authorized composting or anaerobic digestion facility. This law aims to extend the life of the state's landfill and promote a greener economy.



**Act on Climate** Rhode Island's comprehensive climate action plan focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting clean energy, and building resilience statewide. It provides strategies and resources for communities, businesses, and individuals to achieve a sustainable, carbon-neutral future by 2050.

**Clean Energy Internship Program** Connect your business with talented college students and recent grads through Rhode Island's paid 12-week Clean Energy Internship Program. This program offers hands-on experience in solar, energy efficiency, engineering, and policy, while providing stipend reimbursement to employers.