



Facility type	University campus
Project cost	\$24.8 million*
Cost savings	\$2.8 million annually*
Contract term	Up to 12 years
Contract type	ESPC

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Kingston, RI

University of Rhode Island’s recognition by the *Princeton Review* as one of the nation’s greenest colleges for seven consecutive years starts with its buildings. Many have been modernized through guaranteed energy savings performance contracts.

NORESCO’s legacy of energy efficiency with URI began in 1985 with one of the nation’s first performance contracts. NORESKO’s construction of URI’s new central boiler plant followed in 1999, supported by a long-term agreement still in place for NORESKO to provide full-time, on-site plant operation.

In 2005, URI expanded its energy efficiency objectives to include emissions reductions under a new state program and chose NORESKO as its energy performance contractor. NORESKO has delivered more than \$24.8 million in facilities improvements in buildings totaling more than 3.7 million square feet across the Kingston, Providence and Narragansett Bay campuses. URI is relying on NORESKO for \$7.8 million more in improvements now under construction.

Energy conservation measures supported in URI’s master energy plan range from new lighting in the Keaney gymnasium that added automatic controls, saves 71 percent in electricity use and improves lighting, to innovative water-recirculation systems that save 73 million gallons of water annually and bolster academic research and budgets at the Aquaculture Center.

As a signatory to the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (now called the Carbon Commitment), URI is committed to progress toward climate neutrality. Its incremental emissions reductions are realized in large part through performance contracts.

NORESCO implemented a unique Energy Conservation Through Behavior Change® program, later assimilated into the facilities and housing departments. The program provided resource conservation education and awareness training with measurable results, helping strengthen the culture of sustainability on campus.

Technical Highlights

- ▶ Campus-wide lighting upgrades and controls
- ▶ Distributed chiller and boiler installations
- ▶ Ventilation upgrades
- ▶ New aluminum and historic wood window replacements
- ▶ Campus-wide steam trap replacements and ongoing maintenance
- ▶ Steam submeters
- ▶ New automated pool covers in Aquatics Center
- ▶ Weatherization and insulation improvements
- ▶ Domestic water conservation measures
- ▶ Unique water-recirculation systems at the Aquaculture Center
- ▶ Energy Conservation Through Behavior Change®

Environmental Impact

- ▶ Reduced annual electricity usage by 9.7 million kWh for work since 2005
- ▶ Reduced annual water usage by 93 million gallons for work since 2005

“Our contract with NORESKO will generate immediate energy savings without costing us any up-front capital expenditures. It’s a win-win solution for URI and the state’s taxpayers.”

J. Vernon Wyman
Assistant Vice President for
Business Services, URI