



Ready, Set, Rhody Business Continuity Resources

The following are resources to support small businesses in preparing for and responding to disruptions caused by natural disasters. This includes essential planning tools, recovery programs, and funding opportunities to help businesses strengthen operations, protect assets, and recover quickly after severe weather events.

Section	Resource Name	URL	Overview
Get Prepared	RIEMA Business Preparedness Resources	https://riema.ri.gov/planning-mitigation/resources-businesses/preparing-good-business	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 and get back to business quickly.
Get Prepared	Business Disaster Supply Kit	https://commerceri.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/Resilience/EdSP9DU2Bm9BiAmmlQJF_IIBc8Y0q67Zel8KzG8EzeW6vw?e=y113X8	Build a Disaster Supply Kit Be prepared with essential items your business may need during an emergency. A ready-to-go kit ensures you're not scrambling for supplies during power outages or shelter-in-place situations.
Get Prepared	Business Crisis Communication Plan	https://commerceri.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/Resilience/ERY2bc0DqRVJjfFI3lvWVggBqYLzIACzEUM2sYaUP2TT4g?e=9Ue0hh	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. A strong plan keeps everyone informed and your operations moving forward.

Get Prepared	12 Steps to Business Continuity	https://commerceri.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/Resilience/ES32r0Cre0tKmMsd6g9QsR4B5mTWy9Qu_C7SDjPjWGibnw?e=MDdVMh	Business Continuity Planning Safeguard your business with a solid Business Continuity Plan—identify risks, key operations, and partners to stay up and running through any disruption. Get started with the 12 Steps to Business Continuity Guide today.
Get Prepared	SBA: Prepare for Emergencies	https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/manage-your-business/prepare-emergencies	SBA Disaster Guidance – Prepare, Recover, Thrive Get ready with SBA’s step-by-step guidance to assess your risks, create a tailored emergency plan, and practice it with your team to stay operational through any disaster.
Get Prepared	Ready Business	https://www.ready.gov/business	Ready Business: Plan, Prepare, Stay Resilient Ready.gov’s Ready Business program helps you identify risks, build a plan, and take action to protect your operations from disasters. Access free toolkits, checklists, and planning guides to keep your business prepared and resilient.
Get Prepared	Preparing for a disaster (taxpayers and businesses)	https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/preparing-for-a-disaster-taxpayers-and-businesses	Preparing for a disaster (taxpayers and businesses) Planning what to do in case of a disaster is an important part of being prepared. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) encourages taxpayers to safeguard their records. 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.

Get Prepared	US Chamber: Business Preparedness Checklist	https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/disasters/resilience-101-workbook-resources	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. This free, self-assessment tool—part of the “Resilience in a Box” program—guides you in evaluating critical areas like employee safety, supply chains, IT continuity, emergency contacts, and backup facilities
Get Prepared	Inland Flooding Toolkit	https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/ready_business_inland-flooding-toolkit.pdf	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
Get Prepared	Power Outage Toolkit	https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/ready_business_power-outage-toolkit.pdf	Prepare Your Business for Power Outages Power outages can disrupt operations and impact your bottom line. 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.
Get Prepared	Severe Wind / Tornado Toolkit	https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/ready_business_severe-wind-tornado-toolkit.pdf	Prepare Your Business for Severe Winds and Tornadoes Prepare your business for severe winds and tornadoes with this toolkit—a clear, step-by-step guide to assess risks, create plans, and take action to ensure continuity and readiness.

Get Prepared	Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Preparedness Toolkit	https://www.lisc.org/our-resources/resource/climate-change-preparedness-toolkit-business-development-organizations/	Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Climate Change Preparedness Toolkit FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS This guide is intended to support small business owners in both developing a business continuity plan, as well as creating a culture that allows for innovations and transformations. Recognizing that business owners have a lot to consider in their daily operations, the guide has been organized to be accessible and concise.
Get Prepared	MyCoast Business Flood Visualizer	https://prep-ri.org/properties-businesses/	Assess Your Flood Risk with MyCoast Business Flood Visualizer Rhode Island business owners can easily evaluate flood risks using this interactive tool that combines real-time weather, tides, and community photos. Stay informed and make smarter decisions to protect your property and keep your business resilient against flooding.
Get Prepared	STORMTOOLS (flood modeling)	https://stormtools-mainpage-crc-uri.hub.arcgis.com/	Explore STORMTOOLS: Rhode Island's Coastal Flood Mapping Tool STORMTOOLS offers detailed, interactive maps to help you understand current and future coastal flood risks, including sea level rise and storm scenarios. Use this easy-to-navigate platform to assess your property's vulnerability, support planning decisions, and stay prepared for changing conditions.
Respond & Recover	MyCoast	https://mycoast.org/ri	MyCoast Rhode Island: Snap the Shore, Track the Change MyCoast is a powerful portal that collects and analyzes shoreline photos across Rhode Island, capturing today's flood impacts and

			highlighting future risks. By linking images with weather and tide data, it provides valuable insights to help government agencies, businesses, and residents make informed decisions to protect our coastlines.
Respond & Recover	Report Damage to RIEMA	https://riema.ri.gov/planning-mitigation/resources-businesses	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). This helps the state assess the extent of the damage and determine eligibility for federal assistance. How to Report: <u>Online:</u> Visit riema.ri.gov and navigate to the "Planning & Mitigation" section. <u>Fax or Email:</u> Complete the Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) form and send it to RIEMA at 401-944-1891 or email lawrence.macedo@ema.ri.gov.
Respond & Recover	SBA: Business Recovery	https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance	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.
Respond & Recover	Rhode Island State Contacts for Disasters	https://riema.ri.gov/planning-mitigation/state-contacts	Connect with Rhode Island Emergency & State Agencies Get quick access to key state contacts to support your business during emergencies.

Respond & Recover	SBA: Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Resources	https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/manage-your-business/recover-disasters	Pivot your business/ updating your plan The SBDC network is the largest SBA-funded Resource Partner and provides one-on-one business advising at no cost to entrepreneurs. SBDC-certified advisers will walk you through your options so you can confidently make tough decisions about the future of your business.
Respond & Recover	SCORE: Support for Disaster-Affected Businesses	https://www.score.org/templates-resources/small-business-resilience-hub	SCORE Small Business Resilience Training can give you the tools to adapt, reopen, and grow successfully through any disaster.
Respond & Recover	Small Business Readiness for Resiliency Program	https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/disasters/small-business-readiness-for-resiliency-program-how-it-works	Small Business Readiness for Resiliency (R4R) Grant Program The R4R program is designed specifically for small businesses with 500 or fewer employees. It guides businesses through a three-step process to enhance their preparedness and, if eligible, provides grants when a state emergency order or state disaster declaration is made in their county. Get started today!
Resilient Upgrades & Funding Opportunities	Rhode Island Energy's Small Business Program	https://www.rienergy.com/site/ways-to-save/save-money-with-rebates-and-incentives/savings-for-your-business/small-business-program ; https://www.riseengineering.com/small-business	Getting started Schedule a no-cost energy assessment, and we will help you determine what energy-saving solutions are best for your business. Call us at 1-877-784-3709 or email energyefficiency@RIEnergy.com .
Resilient Upgrades & Funding Opportunities	Go Solar Providence	https://www.providenceri.gov/sustainability/go-solar-providence/	Go Solar Providence Visit Go Solar Providence for tools, installer lists, and everything you need to begin your clean energy journey.

Resilient Upgrades & Funding Opportunities	Community Solar	https://energy.ri.gov/renewable-energy/solar/community-solar	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.
Resilient Upgrades & Funding Opportunities	REF Commercial Projects	https://commerceri.com/renewable-energy-fund/	The Rhode Island Commerce Renewable Energy Fund (REF) The Renewable Energy Fund (REF) 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.
Resilient Upgrades & Funding Opportunities	Energy Incentives	https://energy.ri.gov/incentives	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.
Resilient Upgrades & Funding Opportunities	Rhode Island Green Certification Programs for Businesses	https://dem.ri.gov/environmental-protection-bureau/customer-and-technical-assistance/green-certification-program	Rhode Island Green Certification Programs for Businesses The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) offers voluntary Green Certification Programs to help businesses across various industries enhance sustainability and reduce environmental impact. These programs provide recognition for implementing practices that minimize pollution, conserve resources, and promote environmental stewardship.

Municipal	City of Providence Sustainability Office	https://www.providenceri.gov/sustainability/	City of Providence Sustainability Office (SustainPVD) Empower your business with Providence's sustainability programs—cut costs, boost efficiency, and lead in clean energy innovation.
Municipal	Providence Community Electricity	http://providenceri.gov/sustainability/providencecommunityelectricity/	The Providence Community Electricity 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.
Municipal	City of Newport Resilience	https://www.cityofnewport.com/en-us/city-hall/departments/resilience-sustainability	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.
Municipal	Barrington	https://www.barrington.ri.gov/208/Resilience	Town of Barrington The Town passed a Resilient Future Resolution in 2021 to move towards 100% renewable energy by 2030.
Municipal	Jamestown	https://www.sustainablejamestown.com/	Sustainable Jamestown Includes an action plan with things that the town and residents can do as a community to ensure that Jamestown is still here for future generations.

Compliance & Laws	Food Waste Ban in RI	https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE23/23-18.9/23-18.9-17.htm	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, part of the state's Refuse Disposal Law, aims to extend the life of the state's landfill and promote a greener economy. The ban initially took effect in January 2016 and has been expanded since then.
Compliance & Laws	Act on Climate	https://climatechange.ri.gov/act-climate	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.
Opportunities	Clean Energy Internship Program	https://commerceri.com/renewable-energy-fund/	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. Hosted by RI Commerce and the Office of Energy Resources, this program offers hands-on experience in solar, energy efficiency, engineering, and policy, while providing stipend reimbursement to employers.

Industry Resources Guides

Businesses across Rhode Island are taking steps to address climate change, implement sound resilience practices, and remain competitive and profitable. Planning and preparing for extreme climate events can also save lives and keep Rhode Islanders working.

The following are printable guides by industry:

Construction Guide - July 2025 (PDF)

Lodging & Accommodations Guide - July 2025 (PDF)

Manufacturing Guide - July 2025 (PDF)

Restaurant & Food Service Guide - July 2025 (PDF)

Retail Guide July - 2025 (PDF)

Service Provider Guide - July 2025 (PDF)

Water Dependent Guide - July 2025 (PDF)

Workshops

This fall, Ready, Set, Rhody held two workshops to coincide with National Preparedness and National Fire Prevention Months. The two presentations can be found here:

[Understanding Risk & Preparedness for Rhode Island Small Businesses](#)

[Recovery and Resilience for Small Businesses in Rhode Island](#)