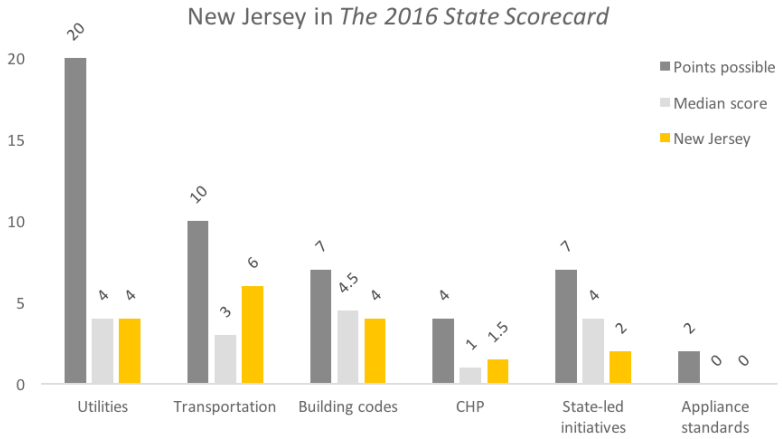
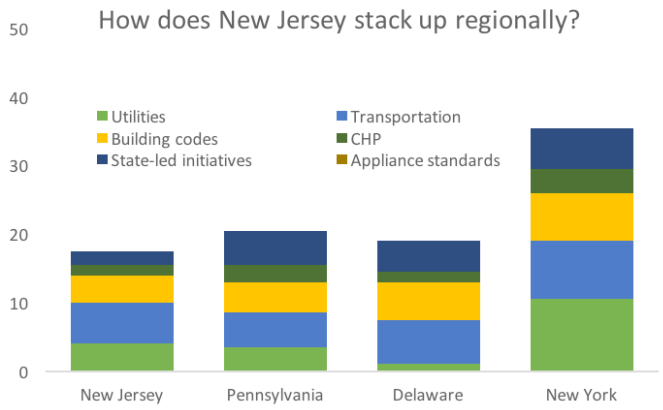
New Jersey

24

New Jersey ranked 24th in the *2016 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, falling three spots compared to 2015. The state scored 17.5 points out of a possible 50, 1.5 fewer points than it earned last year.





UTILITIES

New Jersey earned 4 out of 20 points for its utility policies and programs. The New Jersey Clean Energy Program and utilities administer electricity and natural gas efficiency programs, and savings remain fairly consistent from year to year. The state does not have an energy efficiency resource standard in place. Regulatory adjustments to the utility business model, including decoupling and performance incentives that are aligned with specific energy savings targets, could incent greater efficiency achievements.

TRANSPORTATION

New Jersey earned 6 points out of a possible 10 points for transportation policies. New Jersey rules require automakers to reduce fleet-wide greenhouse gas emissions from the vehicles they sell in the state by 30% by 2016. The state integrates transportation and land-use planning and has a complete streets policy in place. New Jersey devotes a significant amount of funding to transportation initiatives and offers consumer incentives for high efficiency vehicles.

BUILDING ENERGY CODES

New Jersey earned 4 points out of 7 for its building energy code stringency and compliance efforts. The state has adopted the most up-to-date building energy codes meeting 2015 IECC standards, though significantly weakening amendments have been passed for residential construction. The state also provides training on building energy codes.

COMBINED HEAT & POWER

New Jersey scored 1.5 out of 4 points for its combined heat and power policies. The state offers incentives for CHP deployment through several programs. The state's Energy Resilience Bank has been particularly active in providing grants and loans for installing CHP. The state's Superstorm Sandy Action Plan includes funding specifically for CHP and recommends that critical infrastructure use CHP in order to increase the system resiliency. New Jersey has also streamlined its air permitting process by offering a general permit for some eligible CHP systems. Five new CHP installations were completed in 2015.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

New Jersey scored 2 out of 7 points for state-led energy efficiency initiatives. The state offers grants and loans for energy efficiency investments. The state government leads by example, benchmarking energy use in public buildings and encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts. The Edison Innovation Clean Energy Fund sponsors energy efficiency research and development.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

New Jersey established minimum standards for eight products in 2005, but all have been preempted by federal standards.

HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

New Jersey has strong transportation policies and was one of the first states to update its building energy codes to meet 2015 standards (albeit with weakening amendments). However, the existing utility business model does not encourage investment in energy efficiency. As other states in the region significantly ramp up programs year after year, to keep up with its peer states New Jersey would need to ramp up energy savings levels and adopt and enforce long-term energy efficiency targets. Offering performance incentives to utilities and protecting ratepayer dollars collected for clean energy programs from being transferred into the general fund could also help increase the impact of New Jersey's energy efficiency programs.

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