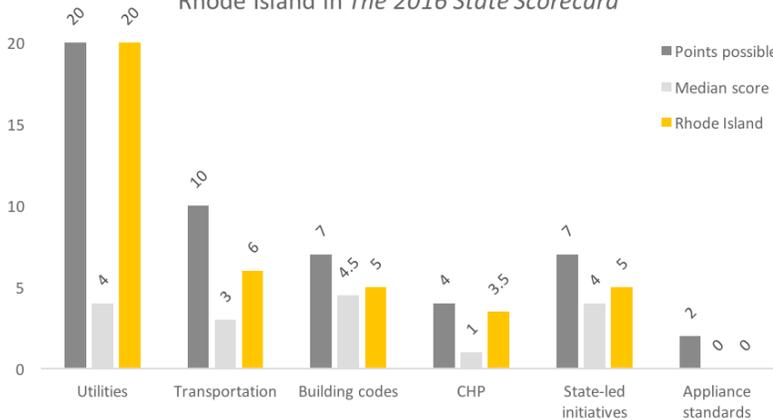


# Rhode Island

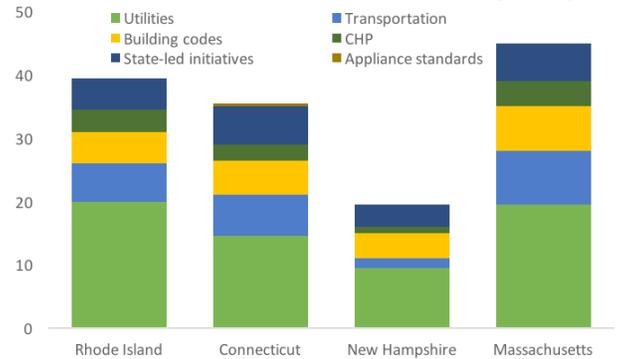


Rhode Island ranked 4th in the 2016 *State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, the same position it held last year. While holding steady in the rankings, the state actually earned three more points than last year with a score of 39.5 points out of a possible 50.

Rhode Island in *The 2016 State Scorecard*



How does Rhode Island stack up regionally?



## UTILITIES

Rhode Island earned a perfect score for its utility policies and programs for the third year in a row. Efficiency program administrators in the state devote notable levels of funding to acquire all cost-effective energy efficiency resources, and this year the state achieved electricity savings of almost 3% of sales, higher than any other state. Rhode Island has set aggressive energy savings targets as part of its energy efficiency resource standard, which includes both electricity and natural gas.



## STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

Rhode Island scored 5 out of 7 points for state-led energy efficiency initiatives. The state offers a variety of energy efficiency incentives for consumers and has an active PACE program. State government leads by example by requiring efficient public buildings, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. Research focused on energy efficiency is conducted at the University of Rhode Island Outreach Center.



## TRANSPORTATION

Rhode Island earned 6 points out of a possible 10 points for transportation policies. The state integrates transportation and land use planning, and devotes significant funding to transportation initiatives. Rhode Island has set tailpipe emissions standards and passed complete streets legislation. As part of its new Driving Rhode Island to Vehicle Electrification (DRIVE) program, the state offers rebates for high efficiency vehicles.



## APPLIANCE STANDARDS

Rhode Island is one of the few states to set appliance standards, although no additional standards have gone into effect in the past three years. The most recent standards were adopted in 2006 and all but two have been preempted by federal standards.



## BUILDING ENERGY CODES

Rhode Island earned 5 points out of 7 for its building energy code stringency and compliance efforts. Residential and commercial building construction must currently comply with a weakened version of the 2012 IECC, although the state is reviewing the 2015 IECC. Rhode Island has completed a baseline compliance study for commercial and residential buildings and conducts an array of ongoing activities to improve compliance rates.



## HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Rhode Island has always ranked high in the *State Scorecard* and remains in the top five thanks in large part to its leading utility sector efforts to acquire all cost-effective energy efficiency. In 2014, Rhode Island was the first state to achieve electricity savings above 3%, driven by some of the most aggressive energy savings targets in the US. The state has shown strong commitment to reducing energy waste across almost all policy sectors and can continue to achieve high levels of energy savings through regular renewal of efficiency targets and periodic updates to its building energy codes, as well as potentially adding to its portfolio of sustainable transportation policies.



## COMBINED HEAT & POWER

Rhode Island scored 3.5 out of 4 points for its combined heat and power policies. The state has an interconnection standard, offers incentives for CHP deployment, and includes cost-effective and efficient CHP as an eligible resource within its energy efficiency resource standard. National Grid offers technical assistance for CHP projects and the Department of Environmental Management works to streamline air permitting for certain CHP systems. One new CHP system was installed in 2015.