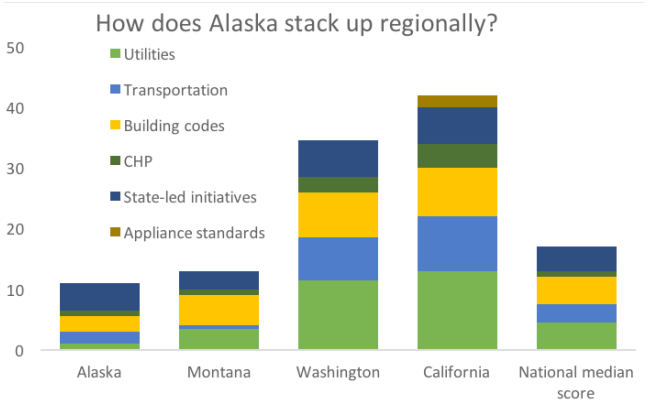
39 Alaska

Alaska ranked 39th in *The 2017 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, rising two positions from its 2016 rank. The state earned 11 points out of a possible 50, an increase of 1 point over last year. The Alaskan state government supports a range of energy efficiency services through multiple loan and grant programs for homeowners, businesses, rural communities, and public facilities. Despite these efforts, Alaska continues to rank low in the *State Scorecard* largely due to limited utility program offerings and efforts to incorporate energy efficiency into the utility planning process. The high price of electricity in the state means that residents and businesses would benefit significantly from utility investments in low-cost energy efficiency. By incentivizing utilities to include energy efficiency as a resource, as well as expanding efforts that promote efficiency in buildings, vehicles, and transportation systems, Alaska can achieve additional savings and improve its ranking.



UTILITIES (1 OUT OF 20)

The state realized low levels of electricity savings, and does not run natural gas efficiency programs. Although the state provides significant investment toward weatherization services for low-income customers, budgets for electricity programs were some of the lowest in the country, meaning customers generally do not have access to a wide range of energy efficiency services provided by their utilities. There are opportunities for the state to pursue new utility business models that encourage customer energy efficiency.

TRANSPORTATION (2 OUT OF 20)

Alaska devotes a significant amount of funding to efficient transportation initiatives and has seen a decrease in vehicle miles traveled in recent years. However there is still significant room for growth in this category.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (2.5 OUT OF 8)

Alaska's residential energy code is state developed and based on the 2012 IECC, but applies only to state-financed construction. There is no statewide commercial building energy code. The state completed a gap analysis in 2012 and offers training in code compliance. Alaska is one of the few states with a statewide energy use transparency policy in place for residential buildings. Significant opportunity remains to work with localities to adopt more up-to-date building energy codes.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (1 OUT OF 4)

Alaska provides a grant program in support of combined heat and power projects but otherwise has limited policies to encourage cost-effective and efficient CHP. Eight new installations were completed in 2016.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (4.5 OUT OF 6)

The state offers a variety of grant and loan programs through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, including the Home Energy Rebate Program and weatherization services, and Alaska Energy Authority. The state leads by example, setting energy savings targets for buildings and benchmarking energy use. Research focused on energy efficiency takes place at the Cold Climate Housing Research Center.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OUT OF 2)

Alaska has not set appliance standards beyond those required by the federal government.

ENHANCED WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

Alaska faces some of the highest energy costs the United States, with residential costs that are 60% above the national average. These high costs are particularly burdensome for low-income households, but weatherization assistance programs help reduce this burden by keeping homes energy efficient. In 2016, more than $1.5 million in state, utility, and federal funds were distributed through programs such as the Enhanced Weatherization Program (EWP). In the Village of Egegik, for example, one EWP participant reduced energy consumption by 30% and saved $2,000 annually, while another reduced annual fuel oil use by 300 gallons.