

15 Colorado

Colorado tied for 15th in *The 2017 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, falling one position in the rankings compared to 2016. The state earned 23 points out of a possible 50, 1.5 points less than it earned last year. The state's utility-led energy efficiency programs continue to post electricity and gas savings higher than those of most states, and these programs are poised to continue following legislation earlier this year to extend utility savings targets through 2028. The state provides additional support through an array of financial incentives, including facilitating PACE financing for commercial properties. Opportunities remain for Colorado to improve by pursuing sustainable transportation policies, encouraging investment in combined heat and power, and working with local communities to adopt up-to-date building energy codes.

UTILITIES (8 OUT OF 20)

Colorado continues to report above-average levels of savings thanks to an energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) that sets targets for both electricity and natural gas savings. In May 2017, the state adopted legislation to extend these targets another 10 years. There is no decoupling mechanism for electric utilities, but the state's gas utilities may recover lost revenues. Performance incentives are also in place for utilities.

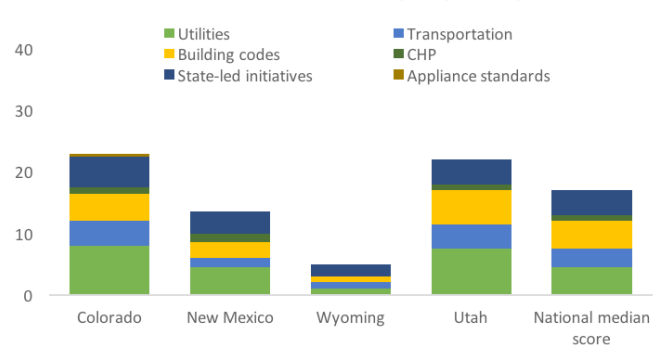
TRANSPORTATION (4 OUT OF 10)

In 2013, Colorado passed legislation that allows the entire local share of the Highway Users Trust fund to be used for public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian investments. The state also has incentives for high-efficiency vehicles that extend through 2021, and has a significant number of electric vehicle registrations throughout the state.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (4.5 OUT OF 8)

Colorado is a home rule state with a minimum mandatory code equivalent to the 2003 IECC. However 95% of new construction takes place in jurisdictions that have adopted either 2009 or 2012 IECC standards. The state completed an evaluation of code compliance in 2013, offers code trainings, and also has an active stakeholder advisory group.

How does Colorado stack up regionally?



COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (1 OUT OF 4)

The state has an interconnection standard and allows renewable-fueled CHP systems and waste heat to power systems to qualify under its renewable energy standard. However there are no policies in place designed to acquire energy savings from CHP that apply to all forms of CHP. Two new CHP installations were completed in 2016.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (5 OUT OF 6)

The state makes available several programs to help finance energy efficiency in residential and commercial properties. Colorado also offers efficiency audits for agricultural projects as well as commercial PACE financing. The Colorado government leads by example, benchmarking energy usage in state buildings and supporting the use of energy savings performance contracts. Research focused on energy efficiency takes place at several institutions in the state.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0.5 OUT OF 2)

In 2014, the state adopted standards for plumbing products including faucets, toilets, urinals, and showerheads. These standards will result in energy savings in addition to water savings.

COLORADO AGRICULTURAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

Dairy farmers Kris and Mary Kraft have reduced electricity use on their Badger Creek farm by more than 125,000 kWh, saving \$6,000 annually through their participation in the Colorado Agricultural Energy Efficiency (AgEE) Program. Energy audits and incentives provided through this program have shown the Kraft family where to improve efficiency on their farms. They have improved lighting and milking equipment and installed a heat recovery unit. At their Quail Ridge Farm, they plan to install more energy efficiency equipment, projected to save 240,000 kWh annually, potentially yielding more than \$12,000 in annual savings. The Krafts are among the 115 current AgEE program participants; in the next two years, the Colorado Energy Office expects to enroll 200 more.

