

26 Idaho

Idaho tied for 26th in *The 2017 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, rising seven spots compared to 2016 and becoming one of this year's most improved states. The state gained 3.5 points compared to last year, totaling 16.5 points out of a possible 50. Following a low point in 2013, utility savings have seen a significant uptick in recent years thanks to increased levels of spending on efficiency programs, though savings have yet to rebound to peak levels seen in 2010 and 2011. The state continues to support energy efficiency across multiple sectors, from proactive adoption of building energy codes to state-offered grant and loan programs. However opportunities remain for the state to improve, for example by setting performance incentives to encourage utility investment in energy efficiency. Idaho has limited policies to encourage transportation efficiency and combined heat and power development and could find many energy-saving opportunities in these areas.

UTILITIES (5.5 OUT OF 20)

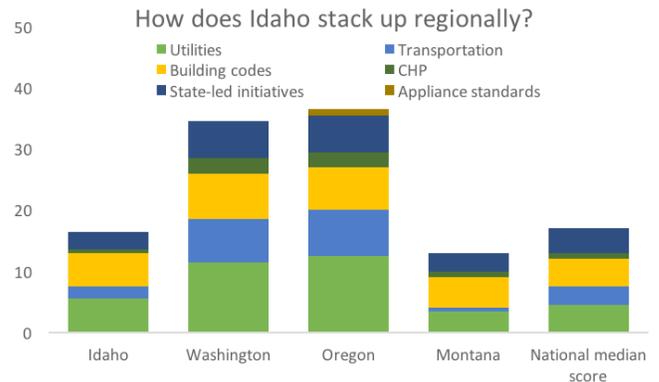
Utilities continued to increase electricity savings to levels well above the national average this year, with a significant increase in funding and outreach to attract customers. Though utilities have been decoupled, opportunities remain to set specific energy savings goals and adopt performance incentives to further encourage utilities to embrace investment in efficiency programs. Another potential area for improvement is utility natural gas efficiency programs, which reported minimum levels of funding and savings.

TRANSPORTATION (2 OUT OF 10)

The state has seen an increase in electric vehicle registrations, along with a decline in vehicle miles traveled in recent years, but Idaho has focused relatively little effort on policies to encourage efficient transportation, leaving significant room for growth.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (5.5 OUT OF 8)

Idaho has been active in updating its building energy codes



with the 2015 IECC, anticipated to take effect in early 2018, albeit with weakening amendments. The state maintains a database to assess compliance and has implemented several activities to improve code compliance, including convening a stakeholder advisory group and offering code trainings in conjunction with the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (0.5 OUT OF 4)

The state offers financing that applies to CHP projects, but otherwise has no regulations or policies that encourage the deployment of cost-effective and efficient CHP systems. Two new CHP installations were completed in 2016.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (3 OUT OF 6)

The state offers several financial incentives, including an income tax deduction for energy efficiency improvements, a grant program for school districts, and a major low-interest loan program. However Idaho has allowed its public building requirements to sunset and does not have benchmarking requirements for public buildings or fuel efficiency requirements for fleets.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OUT OF 2)

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

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

The University of Idaho is on track to save more than \$355,000 annually on energy and maintenance costs from converting 66,815 fluorescent lights to LEDs, reducing energy use by 5.6 million kWh. To convert to the more efficient bulbs, the university leveraged a rebate from Avista for more than \$1 million. The project employed 22 students and resulted in upgrades that minimize ultraviolet radiation, improve lighting quality, and reduce the university's carbon footprint. Peter Handel, a student employed by the project said, "It meant a lot to work to help the university save money on its power bills, and I appreciated that they targeted students as their workforce. Working on this project opened my eyes to what an impact energy efficiency can make, and I'm definitely more interested in pursuing energy efficiency as a career." Energy efficiency work is ongoing, with 68 buildings and nearly 70% of exterior lighting still to receive LED upgrades.

