

13 Maine

Maine tied for 13th in the *2017 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, falling two positions compared to 2016. The state scored 25.5 points out of a possible 50, 1.5 points less than it earned last year. Efficiency Maine, the state's independent administrator of efficiency programs, continued to achieve high levels of electricity savings, though not as high as those reported in 2015. Notable enhancements this year included making natural gas programs available to more customers and launching a new home energy savings program for low-income customers. The state adopted electric efficiency targets among the highest in the country in 2015, but will need to continue to fully fund them if it expects to meet savings goals. Opportunities are available for the state to expand its efficiency efforts, for example by reinvigorating stalled plans to update building energy codes and pursuing policies that improve efficiency in the transportation sector.

UTILITIES (10.5 OUT OF 20)

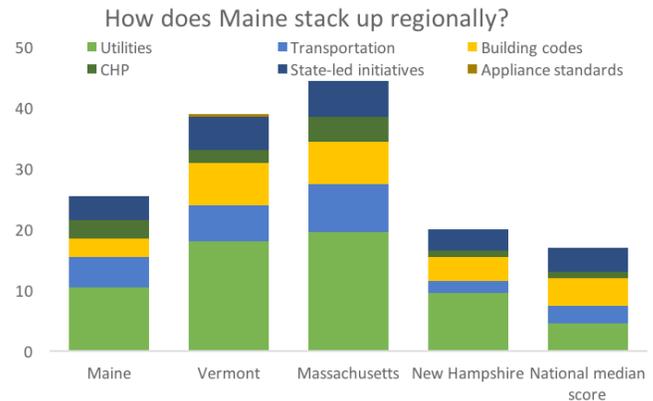
The state's significant investments in energy efficiency continue to produce high levels of energy savings rivaling those of other leading states. However savings did fall somewhat in 2015, corresponding with a decrease in program funds. In 2016 the state legislature directed the return of a sizeable portion of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) revenues to certain large electric customers, funds that otherwise would have gone toward measures to strengthen efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In order to continue to meet its ambitious utility savings goals, the state will need to resist efforts to reduce program funding.

TRANSPORTATION (5 OUT OF 10)

Maine has established standards for tailpipe emissions, and integrates transportation and land use planning. Maine has a complete streets policy in place, and also saw a reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita in recent years. However opportunities remain to offer financial incentives for fuel-efficient vehicles and strengthen efficiency goals within the state's freight plan.

BUILDING POLICIES (3 OUT OF 8)

The Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code made the 2009 IECC mandatory for residential construction and is working



to adopt the 2015 IECC/ASHRAE 90.1-2013 for commercial buildings, although this effort seems to have stalled in 2017. Since small communities are not required to comply with the state's building codes, the codes cover only about 60% of the population. Maine is one of the few states to adopt a residential energy use transparency policy; however opportunity remains to work with local jurisdictions to enforce code compliance.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (3 OUT OF 4)

The state has an interconnection standard, and includes CHP within its Renewable Resources Portfolio Requirement. Maine offers incentives for the deployment of CHP and offers technical assistance through Efficiency Maine Trust. Three new CHP installations were completed in 2016.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (4 OUT OF 6)

Maine uses RGGI funds to offer several state-administered financial incentives, including loans, rebates, and incentives. The state government leads by example by setting energy requirements for public buildings and fleets, and encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OUT OF 2)

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

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM

Efficiency Maine's Low-Income Home Energy Savings Program, in partnership with Weatherize Rockland and local contractor Penobscot Home Performance, helped Nancy Callahan add insulation to her walls, attic, and crawlspace, as well as make other energy efficiency upgrades. Nancy said the program was very user friendly and easy, and she expects her heating demand to go down by 35–40%. "I had done anything I could think of within my means to prepare for winter. My fuel bill last winter was scary. I am so grateful for this program. This will save me thousands and thousands of dollars. It would have taken me years to do all this myself," Callahan said. She also has noticed other benefits from the upgrades. Living very close to railroad tracks, dishes used to rattle and picture frames would tilt on the wall, but as a result of her new insulation, the house is more stable when trains pass by.

