

34 Nevada

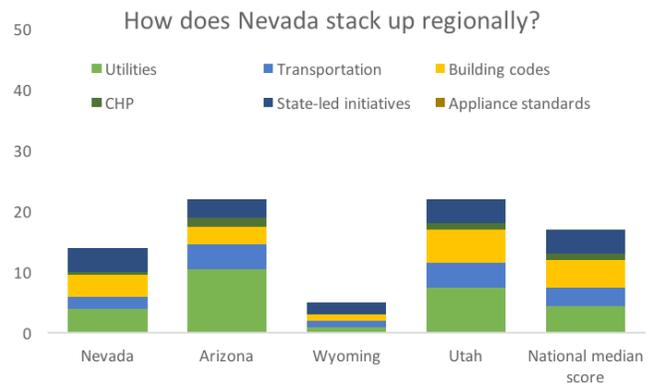
Nevada ranked 34th in *The 2017 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, rising three positions in the rankings compared to 2016. The state scored 14 points out of a possible 50, 2 points more than it earned last year. Nevada passed a strong suite of clean energy initiatives in 2017, including a bill requiring the utility commission to set annual efficiency targets for utilities. Although Nevada has made progress in updating its building energy codes, the failure of large jurisdictions to adopt these codes means significant amounts of potential savings are not being achieved. Working with local governments to increase adoption and compliance could help the state see greater energy savings overall. While the state has shown strong leadership in supporting electric vehicles, there are opportunities for the state to reduce vehicle miles traveled by increasing investment in public transit and sustainable transportation policies that promote clustering and accessibility.

UTILITIES (4 OUT OF 20)

Nevada currently allows energy efficiency investments to count toward its renewable portfolio standard. The state passed legislation in June 2017 directing the establishment of utility energy savings goals, including a requirement that at least 5% of energy efficiency expenditures be directed toward low-income customers. Utilities offer electricity and natural gas efficiency programs, and electricity savings were consistent with the national average in 2016. Nevada allows utilities to recover lost revenues resulting from efficiency programs. As the utility commission gets set to establish annual efficiency goals, there is an opportunity to significantly increase savings in the near future.

TRANSPORTATION (2 OUT OF 20)

The state has seen a recent increase in electric vehicle registrations, but advancement in sustainable transportation has not been a major policy focus relative to other states. For example, Nevada has a state freight plan that identifies a multimodal freight network, although opportunities remain to establish goals for freight efficiency or greenhouse gas reduction.



BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (3.5 OUT OF 8)

The 2015 Nevada Energy Code requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2012 IECC. However Las Vegas removed commercial energy code requirements for buildings constructed prior to 2009 and did not adopt the 2012 IECC, significantly weakening the energy savings potential of statewide code updates. Despite these local backslides, the state has undertaken a range of activities to ensure compliance with building energy codes overall.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (0.5 OUT OF 4)

The state includes CHP as an eligible resource within its clean energy standards, but does not otherwise incent CHP deployment. One new CHP installation was completed in 2016.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (4 OUT OF 6)

The state offers a wide-reaching property tax abatement for green buildings, as well as several other financial incentives. The state government leads by example by benchmarking energy use in public facilities and encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts. Research on energy efficiency occurs at the Center for Energy Research at University of Nevada – Las Vegas.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OUT OF 2)

Nevada adopted efficiency standards for general purpose incandescent lights in 2007 which are exempt from federal preemption. However the state has not enforced the standard to date.

HOME ENERGY RETROFIT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS (H.E.R.O.S.)

The Governor's Office of Energy oversees the Home Energy Retrofit Opportunities for Seniors (H.E.R.O.S.) program, which has been helping low-income seniors reduce their heating bills since 2014. On average, participants reduce annual electricity usage by 5,143 kWh and natural gas usage by 266 therms, saving \$927 on their energy bills annually. Participant Michael Jones said about his experience, "This great state program empowers people like me with disabilities. I appreciate the energy savings, but the quality of life improvement is just as good. My doors and windows weren't properly sealed, and the wind would whistle and keep me up at night. Now my house is quiet when it's windy, and I don't have to deal with drafts when I sleep at night." In 2016, Nevada celebrated the 300th home to receive weatherization assistance through the program.

