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Rhode Island

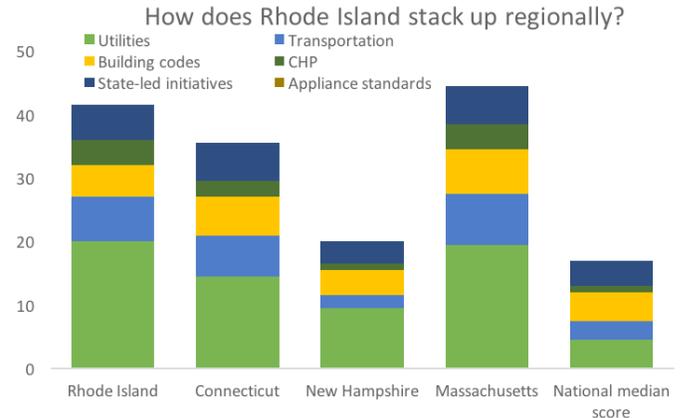
Rhode Island ranked third in *The 2017 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, rising one position compared to last year. The state earned 41.5 points out of a possible 50, two points more than last year. Rhode Island continues to rank high among the top states in the *State Scorecard*, with National Grid meeting ambitious savings targets through successful programs outlined in its three-year Least Cost Procurement Plan. The state has shown strong commitment to reducing energy waste across almost all policy sectors and can continue to achieve high levels of energy savings through regular renewal of efficiency targets and periodic updates to its building energy codes. Rhode Island continues to look for ways to capture untapped savings through innovative pilot programs and planning efforts intended to achieve zero net energy buildings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

UTILITIES (20 OUT OF 20)

Rhode Island earned a perfect score for its utility policies and programs for the fourth year in a row and continues to achieve levels of savings among the highest in the country. Efficiency program administrators in the state devote notable levels of funding to acquire all cost-effective energy efficiency resources while empowering communities and markets to achieve deeper savings by enhancing existing programs. Rhode Island has set aggressive energy savings targets as part of its energy efficiency resource standard, which includes both electricity and natural gas.

TRANSPORTATION (7 OUT OF 10)

The state integrates transportation and land use planning, and devotes significant funding to transportation initiatives. Rhode Island has set tailpipe emissions standards and passed complete streets legislation. As part of its Driving Rhode Island to Vehicle Electrification (DRIVE) program, the state offers rebates for high efficiency vehicles. In addition, the state released a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan in late 2016 outlining strategies for reducing the state's carbon footprint through electrification of the transportation sector and improving transit programs.



BUILDING POLICIES (5 OUT OF 8)

Residential and commercial building construction must currently comply with a weakened version of the 2012 IECC, although the state is reviewing the 2015 IECC. Rhode Island has completed a baseline compliance study for commercial and residential buildings and conducts an array of ongoing activities to improve compliance rates.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (4 OUT OF 4)

The state has an interconnection standard, offers incentives for CHP deployment, and includes cost-effective and efficient CHP as an eligible resource within its energy efficiency resource standard. National Grid has also established CHP production goals and offers technical assistance. Two new CHP systems were installed in 2016.

GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (5.5 OUT OF 6)

The state offers a variety of energy efficiency incentives for consumers and has an active PACE program. State government leads by example by requiring efficient public buildings, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging energy savings performance contracts.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OUT OF 2)

Rhode Island is one of the few states to set appliance standards, although no additional standards have gone into effect in the past three years. The most recent standards were adopted in 2006 and all but two have been preempted by federal standards.

WETHERSFIELD COMMONS

Residents at the Wethersfield Commons condominium community participated in a property-wide energy efficiency program through National Grid and RISE Engineering that yielded impressive results. The community upgraded more than 150 of the 493 units, and many of those who did not initially participate are calling the office to ask when the program will be available again, according to Gina Vigliotti, the Wethersfield Commons property manager. For a total cost of only \$21,904 to participating residents, the program will save 299,846 kWh and 9,959 therms of natural gas through LED lighting, programmable thermostats, smart power strips, improved insulation, and air sealing. In addition to the electricity savings, the residents are enjoying more comfortable homes and, due to the brighter LED lighting, a safer community.

