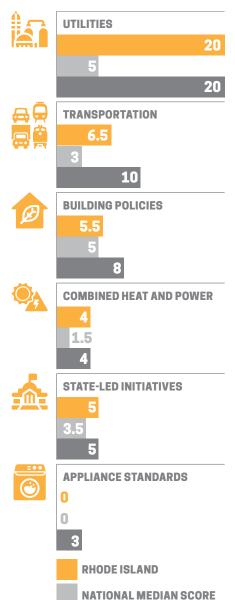


Rhode Island ranked third in the 2018 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, the same position it held last year. The state earned 41 points out of a possible 50, a half-point less than it earned in 2017.



# **Rhode Island**

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. Rhode Island continues to look for ways to capture untapped savings through innovative pilot programs and planning efforts intended to achieve zero-energy buildings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## UTILITIES

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

## TRANSPORTATION

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. In addition, the state released a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan in late 2016, outlining a variety of strategies for reducing the state's carbon footprint through electrification of the transportation sector and improving transit programs.

# **BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES**

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

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. The Department of Environmental Management works to streamline air permitting for certain CHP systems. One new CHP system was installed in 2017.

## STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state offers a variety of energy efficiency incentives for consumers and has an active Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. State government leads by example by requiring efficient public buildings, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. The University of Rhode Island Outreach Center conducts research focused on energy efficiency.

# APPLIANCE STANDARDS

Rhode Island is one of the few states to set appliance standards, although no 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. While new standard-setting legislation was introduced in the state senate earlier this year, ultimately it failed to move out of committee.



**POINTS POSSIBLE**