

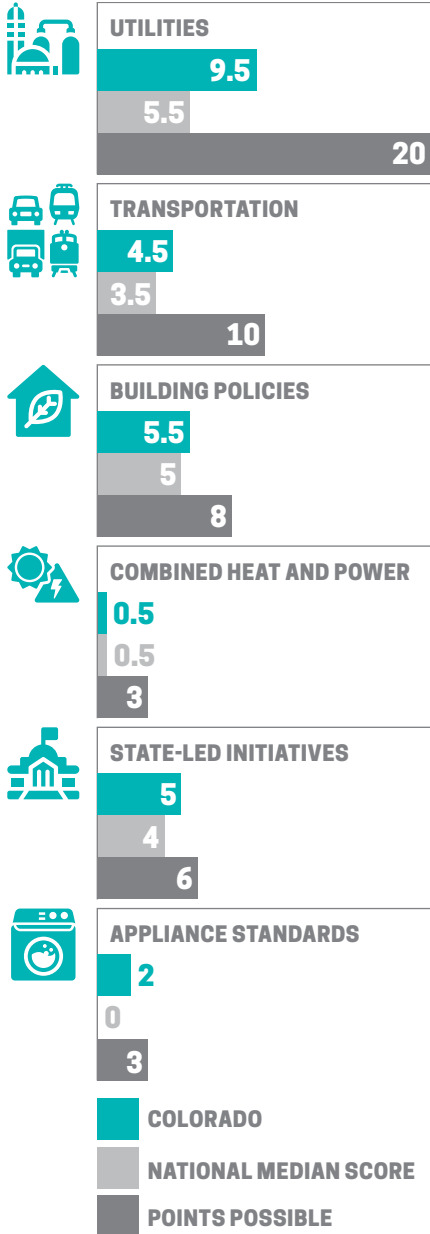
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2019 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

# Colorado

Colorado ranked 14th in the 2019 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, the same position it held last year. The state earned 27 points out of a possible 50, 1.5 more than it earned in 2018.

The state’s utility-led energy efficiency programs report electricity and gas savings well above average, which continue to climb higher in response to stronger Xcel Energy savings goals. It was a busy year for clean energy in the state with the adoption of comprehensive appliance standards legislation, which includes protection against a federal rollback of lighting standards. Legislators also signed a bill strengthening local building energy codes throughout the state.



### UTILITIES (9.5 OF 20 POINTS)

Colorado continues to report above-average savings thanks to an energy efficiency resource standard that sets targets for both electricity and natural gas savings. In 2018, state regulators raised Xcel Energy’s savings targets 25% for the 2019–23 program cycle, and this year, lawmakers lent further policy support to efficiency efforts by adding a price of carbon to utility planning decisions. There is no decoupling mechanism for electric utilities, but the state’s gas utilities may recover lost revenues. Performance incentives are also in place for utilities.

### TRANSPORTATION (4.5 OF 10 POINTS)

In 2018, state regulators adopted strict new vehicle emissions standards aligned with those of California, joining 13 other states that have already done so, and helping Colorado move toward its target of cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 26% by 2025. Colorado law allows the entire local share of the Highway Users Trust Fund to be used for public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian investments. The state also has incentives for high-efficiency vehicles that extend through 2021, and a significant number of electric vehicle registrations throughout the state. The state considers the proximity of transit facilities when distributing federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to qualifying property owners.

### BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (5.5 OF 8 POINTS)

Colorado took a major step forward in strengthening efficiency in new construction this year with the adoption of HB 19-1260, requiring local governments to adopt and enforce one of the three most recent versions of International Code Council energy codes at a minimum upon updating any other building code. By statute, the Colorado Energy Office provides energy code education to builders, designers, engineers, and architects. The state’s Energy Code Compliance Collaborative provides further support in facilitating compliance with local energy codes.

### COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (0.5 OF 3 POINTS)

The state has an interconnection standard and allows renewable-fuel combined heat and power (CHP) systems and waste heat to power (WHP) systems to qualify under its renewable energy standard. However there are no policies in place that are designed to acquire energy savings from CHP and that apply to all forms of CHP. No new CHP installation was completed in 2018.

### STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (5 OF 6 POINTS)

Colorado offers several programs to help finance energy efficiency in residential and commercial properties. The state also provides efficiency audits for agricultural projects as well as commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. The Colorado government leads by example, benchmarking energy usage in state buildings and supporting the use of energy savings performance contracts. Several institutions in the state are conducting research focused on energy efficiency. The state does not yet have any carbon pricing policies in place.

### APPLIANCE STANDARDS (2 OF 3 POINTS)

In 2014, the state adopted standards for plumbing products including faucets, toilets, urinals, and showerheads. These standards continue to deliver energy savings as well as water savings. New standards passed in 2019 covered 15 products, in addition to provisions protecting against the repeal of federal standards, including the light bulb rollback.