

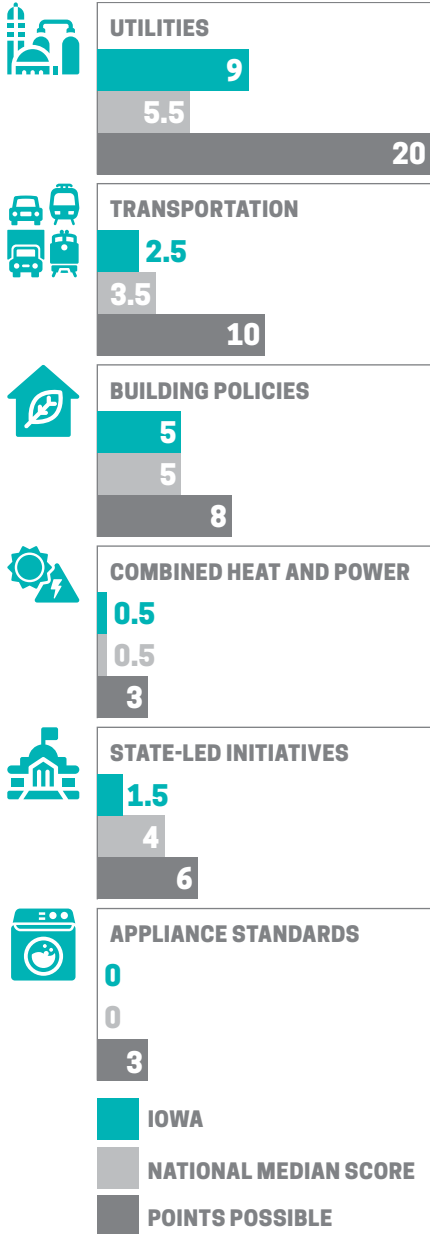
23 

2019 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

# Iowa

Iowa ranked 23rd in the 2019 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, rising one place compared to 2018. The state scored 18.5 points out of a possible 50, 1.5 more points than it earned last year.

While utility sector savings levels saw an uptick in 2018, future performance appears unpromising. Iowa's efficiency efforts suffered a major setback in early 2018 when state lawmakers passed legislation that severely curtailed energy efficiency programs. This year's signing of SF 638 struck another blow to efficiency by placing additional restrictions on program spending. Iowa has room to improve efficiency in other policy categories as well, including transportation, land use planning, and supporting combined heat and power (CHP) development.



### UTILITIES (9 OF 10 POINTS)

Long a standard-bearer of Midwestern energy efficiency, Iowa's utility efficiency programs were dealt a severe blow in 2018 with legislation that imposes a stifling spending cap on demand-side investment. The bill also allows customers to opt out of paying for programs that fail to pass the Ratepayer Impact Measure (RIM) test, a cost-effectiveness test that fails to account for societal savings benefits and is now only rarely used by other states as a basis for approving programs. No performance incentives are in place for utilities. Improving the utility business model to encourage energy efficiency as a strategic energy system resource would improve long-term and comprehensive energy savings opportunities in Iowa.

### TRANSPORTATION (2.5 OF 10 POINTS)

The state integrates transportation and land use planning, and 4% of the fees from new vehicle registration are used to support public transportation. Iowa also has a significant number of electric vehicles registered within the state. Although it released a comprehensive freight plan in 2016, opportunities remain for Iowa to strengthen the plan's energy efficiency goals through concrete performance targets.

### BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (5 OF 8 POINTS)

Iowa's building energy codes for residential and commercial construction are currently based on 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) standards, although discussions are ongoing to adopt the 2015 IECC. The state hosts trainings for code officials and contractors and the 2016 State Energy Plan includes objectives and strategies related to strengthening building efficiency. Utilities are active participants in supporting code compliance efforts, however the state has not completed a baseline compliance study since 2011.

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

Iowa scored 0.5 out of 3 points for its CHP policies. The state has an interconnection standard and offers technical assistance for CHP projects, but still has room for improvement. No new CHP systems were installed in 2018.

### STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (1.5 OF 6 POINTS)

Iowa offers a revolving loan program for consumer energy efficiency investments. The state government leads by example by requiring energy-efficient public buildings and regularly benchmarking their energy use. The Iowa Energy Center conducts and sponsors research regarding alternate energy and energy efficiency.

### APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OF 3 POINTS)

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