



2019 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

Maine

Maine ranked 15th in the 2019 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling one position compared to 2018. Despite the drop in rank, the state earned a half-point more than it did last year, scoring 26 points out of a possible 50.



UTILITIES



TRANSPORTATION



BUILDING POLICIES



COMBINED HEAT AND POWER



STATE-LED INITIATIVES



APPLIANCE STANDARDS



This year's legislative session produced an exciting suite of laws aimed at ushering in a new era of energy efficiency and climate action for the state. In addition to adopting a goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 80% and achieve 100% clean energy by 2050, the legislature also set a target to install 100,000 high-performance air source heat pumps by 2025 in an ambitious effort to transition away from fossil fuels. Potential utility-sector savings have been undermined in the past due to budget constraints; however new legislation passed this year updated utility regulations to help maintain funding at levels needed to reach maximum achievable cost-effective energy savings per statute.

UTILITIES (10.5 OF 20 POINTS)

Efficiency Maine continues to offer a wide array of efficiency programs, though limited program budgets have impacted savings levels in recent years. However this year lawmakers passed LD 1757, requiring the state public utilities commission to defer to Efficiency Maine's calculations of energy savings for the state's triennial plan as long as those calculations use a reasonable and transparent process. This should help to maintain funding at levels needed to meet the ambitious 2.3% electric targets recently approved for 2020-22.

TRANSPORTATION (5.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Maine has established standards for tailpipe emissions and integrates transportation and land use planning. It has a complete streets policy in place and also saw a reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita and an uptick in electric vehicle (EV) registrations in recent years. This year the state also announced a new incentive program to encourage electric vehicle purchases and establish EV charging stations. The state also considers the proximity of transit facilities when distributing federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to qualifying property owners.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (2.5 OF 8 POINTS)

The Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code made the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) mandatory for residential construction and is currently reviewing potential code updates. Since small communities are not required to comply with the state's building codes, the codes cover only about 60% of the state's population. The state could improve in this area by working with local jurisdictions to enforce code compliance. Maine is one of the few states to adopt a residential energy use transparency policy.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (2.5 OF 3 POINTS)

The state has an interconnection standard and includes combined heat and power (CHP) within its Renewable Resources Portfolio Requirement. Efficiency Maine launched a targeted outreach campaign in 2017 to jump-start the market for CHP within the state. The state offers incentives for the deployment of CHP and offers technical assistance through Efficiency Maine Trust.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (5 OF 6 POINTS)

Maine offers several state-administered financial incentives, including loans and rebates to residential and commercial customers. The state government leads by example by setting energy requirements for public buildings and fleets, and encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts. Support toward improving efficiency within the state's innovation economy is provided through the Maine Technology Institute. The state is a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and invests cap-and-trade proceeds toward energy efficiency programs.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OF 3 POINTS)

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