

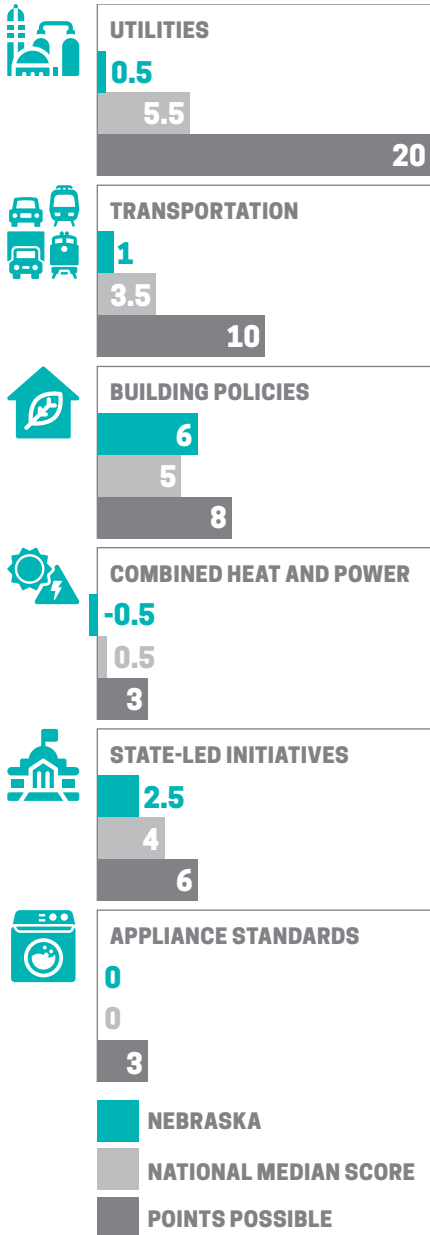
43 

2019 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

Nebraska

Nebraska tied for 43rd in the 2019 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, rising one position compared to last year. The state scored 9.5 points out of a possible 50, 1.5 points more than it earned in 2018.

Nebraska made waves this year by passing legislation updating its state building energy codes to the unamended 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) 90.1-2016 standard, placing it among the leading states in the nation for code stringency. Though Nebraska's exclusive reliance on public power utilities leads to unique challenges, it has an opportunity to engage stakeholders and regulators throughout the state to set up long-term energy efficiency goals. The state could also benefit from investments in efficient transportation systems and policies that encourage combined heat and power (CHP) deployment.



UTILITIES (0.5 OF 20 POINTS)

A network of public power utilities serves Nebraska, offering some limited electricity efficiency programs; however statewide electricity savings are below average, and no natural gas efficiency programs are in place. Nebraska faces some regulatory challenges in incentivizing efficiency due to the nature of its utilities, and does not have decoupling mechanisms or performance incentives in place.

TRANSPORTATION (1 OF 10 POINTS)

The state has seen an increase in electric vehicle registrations in recent years and has a freight plan in place. However, in general, Nebraska has not focused its efforts on policies to encourage efficient transportation systems, leaving significant room for growth.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (6 OF 8 POINTS)

It was a huge year for building-sector efficiency in Nebraska as lawmakers passed LB405, making the leap from the 2009 IECC to the unamended 2018 IECC codes for residential and commercial construction, the most stringent in the Midwest. The state has also completed a comprehensive set of activities to ensure compliance with building energy codes.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (-0.5 OF 3 POINTS)

The state does not have policies that encourage the deployment of CHP systems. No new CHP installations were completed in 2018.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (2.5 OF 6 POINTS)

The state runs the long-standing Dollar and Energy Savings Loan Program. State government benchmarks energy use but has not pursued other lead by example initiatives. Several institutions in Nebraska focus on energy efficiency research and development.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OF 3 POINTS)

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