



2019 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

Washington

Washington ranked 10th in the 2019 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, one position lower than it appeared in 2018. The state scored 31.5 points out of 50, the same score as last year.

Washington made headlines in 2019 by passing an ambitious slate of climate legislation, including a law requiring that 100% of the state's electricity comes from clean energy sources by 2045. Among many other provisions supporting the state's efficiency efforts, the legislation included calling for strong energy performance incentives for existing large commercial buildings, increasing investment in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, and setting efficiency standards for a variety of energy and water appliances sold in the state. While the state's utility-sector electric savings were somewhat lower than those reported in 2017, new policies introduced this year appear poised to strengthen economy-wide energy efficiency performance. The state also plans to adopt all cost-effective utility natural gas savings targets by 2022.



UTILITIES



UTILITIES (9 OF 20 POINTS)

Washington utilities implement both electricity and natural gas efficiency programs, and they are required to acquire all cost-effective, reliable, and feasible energy efficiency. The state has long-term electricity targets, with new natural gas savings targets expected to take effect in 2022 per HB 1257. Washington has also implemented decoupling for electric and natural gas utilities.



TRANSPORTATION



TRANSPORTATION (7 OF 10 POINTS)

The state has long been a leader with respect to smart growth initiatives and has an ambitious target to reduce vehicle miles traveled per capita 50% by 2050, from 1990 levels. The state has a dedicated revenue stream for transportation projects and requires complete streets planning to be incorporated into construction and retrofit projects. The state has also adopted California's Low-Emission Vehicle Program, and the most recent legislative session created or extended multiple grant and funding opportunities for electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.



BUILDING POLICIES



BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (6.5 OF 8 POINTS)

The state legislature passed HB 1257 in 2019, the first statewide adoption of an energy performance standard for existing buildings. The act directs the adoption of energy use intensity targets for commercial buildings greater than 50,000 square feet and will be implemented as a performance-based incentive program beginning in 2021, and as a mandatory requirement beginning in 2026. The current state code references the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for residential buildings and 2015 IECC and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1-2013 for commercial buildings, including provisions designed to achieve additional energy savings. The state also convenes a stakeholder advisory group and offers code trainings. Washington is one of the few states to require commercial building energy use transparency.



COMBINED HEAT AND POWER



COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (2 OF 3 POINTS)

In 2015 the state passed legislation establishing a statewide policy to foster the development of combined heat and power (CHP). The state now requires major public sector facilities and district energy systems to analyze their critical loads and obtain a CHP feasibility assessment. Washington has an interconnection standard and includes CHP as an eligible resource in its energy efficiency resource standard and renewable portfolio standard. One new CHP installation was completed in 2018.



STATE-LED INITIATIVES



STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (5 OF 6 POINTS)

The state offers several financial incentives for energy efficiency projects in residential, commercial, and public buildings. State government leads by example by requiring energy-efficient public buildings and fleets, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. The Smart Buildings Center and Washington State University Energy Program conduct energy efficiency research.



APPLIANCE STANDARDS



APPLIANCE STANDARDS (2 OF 3 POINTS)

In 2019 lawmakers passed HB 1444, which set energy and water efficiency standards for 16 products and adopted 2020 federal light bulb standards as well as any remaining federal standards into state law to protect against rollbacks. The legislation included a first-in-the-nation standard for new electric storage water heaters, requiring them to be grid ready.

