

Wisconsin ranked 25th in the 2019 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, rising four positions from 2018. The state scored 16 points out of a possible 50, a half-point more than it earned last year.



#### **2019 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD**

# Wisconsin

Focus on Energy, the statewide administrator of efficiency programs, continues to report savings at around the national median with a fairly consistent level of funding driven by an energy efficiency resource standard. The state contributes significant efficiency funding toward serving low-income customers. Wisconsin strengthened its building energy codes for commercial construction in 2018; however opportunities remain to ramp up savings. Wisconsin could improve its ranking by increasing investment in utility efficiency programs and encouraging sustainability within the transportation sector through smart growth policies and incentives for high-efficiency vehicles. The governor also issued an executive order earlier this year, setting a goal to reach 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050. Increased investments in efficiency could help the state meet this goal at a lower cost.

#### **UTILITIES (7.5 OF 20 POINTS)**

Wisconsin continues to report electric savings at or around the national median. The state has an energy efficiency resource standard that includes long-term savings targets for both electricity and natural gas, although the targets are based on spending requirements rather than broader efficiency potential. The state also offers performance incentives for successful electric and natural gas programs.

## **TRANSPORTATION (I OF 10 POINTS)**

The state has a notable number of electric vehicle registrations per capita and recently passed a comprehensive freight plan, but it has not otherwise pursued policies that encourage efficient transportation systems.

### **BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (3.5 OF 8 POINTS)**

Wisconsin enforces a residential code based on the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and in May 2018 adopted commercial codes based on the 2015 IECC, but with significant weakening amendments. The state offers code training; however the last baseline compliance study was completed in 2011.

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

Wisconsin has an interconnection standard that is favorable for combined heat and power (CHP). CHP systems that displace electricity use and are fueled by renewable resources are eligible for the state's Renewable Energy Standard. No new CHP systems were installed in 2018.

# **STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (3.5 OF 6 POINTS)**

The state runs a major revolving loan program for manufacturing facilities and has several active property assessed clean energy (PACE) programs. State government leads by example by requiring energy-efficient public buildings and fleets and by encouraging energy savings performance contracts. Several institutions around the state conduct energy efficiency research.

# **APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OF 3 POINTS)**

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

