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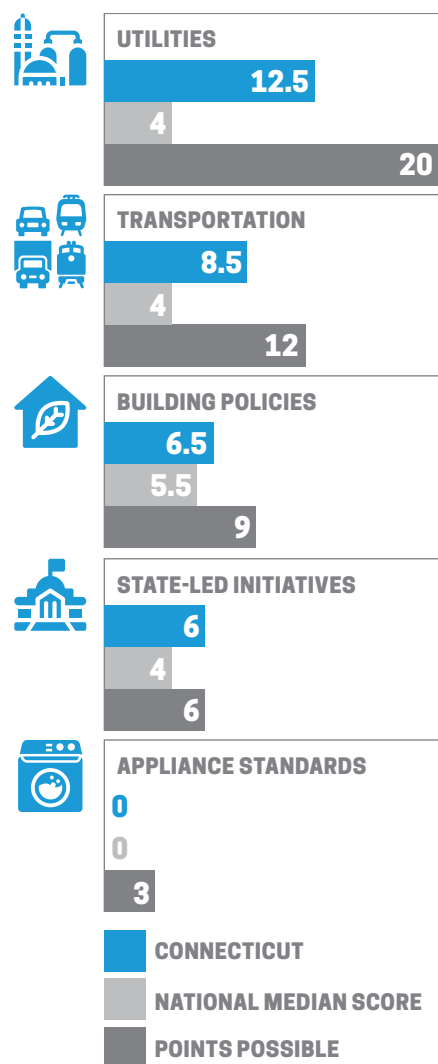
Connecticut ranked seventh in the *2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard,* falling one position compared to 2019. The state earned 33.5 points out of 50, 3 points less than last year.

UTILITIES
12.5
4
20

TRANSPORTATION
8.5
4
12

BUILDING POLICIES
6.5
5.5
9

STATE-LED INITIATIVES
6
4
6

APPLIANCE STANDARDS
0
0
3

CONNECTICUT
NATIONAL MEDIAN SCORE
POINTS POSSIBLE

Connecticut

Connecticut continues to rank among the top 10 energy-efficient states, as it has since the first release of the *State Scorecard*. While efficiency programs suffered somewhat in recent years due to a large funding diversion in 2017, going forward plans are in place to deliver strong electric savings of 1.1% annually. The state has been committed to advancing efficiency in multiple other policy areas as well, including efforts to strengthen its building energy codes and implement California's Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) program. An executive order signed by the governor in 2019 calls on the state to reach zero carbon emissions by 2040 and reestablished the Governor's Council on Climate Change. While the COVID-19 pandemic slowed climate efforts in 2020, the council launched a series of public forums in September to help guide work to keep the state on track to meet its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals.

UTILITIES

Historically strong utility savings targets have helped make Connecticut a perennial top-10 *Scorecard* finisher, though a damaging 2017 raid on the state's energy efficiency fund negatively impacted programs in 2017, 2018, and 2019. As such, utility electricity savings have fallen somewhat from previous levels, but remain well above the national average. The state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection took several important actions this year to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on efficiency programs, including increasing customer-funded incentives and waiving copays for certain programs. The state also recently launched an Equitable Energy Efficiency Proceeding to explore ways to increase participation in efficiency programs among underrepresented communities. The state has decoupling in place for investor-owned utilities and also offers performance incentives to utilities for achieving energy savings goals.

TRANSPORTATION

The state's efficient transportation policies include tailpipe emissions standards, complete streets legislation, and incentives for high-efficiency vehicles. Connecticut has also adopted California's ZEV program, which requires increasing production of plug-in hybrid, battery electric, and fuel cell vehicles from 2018 to 2025. The state also has more electric vehicle (EV) charging stations per capita than most. Connecticut completed a new freight plan in 2017, as well as a multimodal long-range transportation plan in early 2018. The state also incentivizes the creation of low-income housing near transit facilities and considers the proximity of transit facilities when distributing federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to qualifying property owners.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

In July 2018 state regulators voted to adopt the 2018 Connecticut State Building and Fire Safety Codes, which include 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) requirements for residential and commercial construction, effective October 2018. The state has completed a variety of compliance activities and utilities support code compliance efforts.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

Connecticut offers several financial incentives for consumers, including loans, grants, and sales tax exemptions for energy-efficient products, as well as commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. State government leads by example, benchmarking energy usage in state buildings, encouraging energy savings performance contracts, and requiring energy-efficient fleets and buildings. Connecticut is a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and reinvests proceeds from the program in energy efficiency.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

The state has set a variety of standards since 2001, most of which have been preempted by federal standards. In 2011, Connecticut added standards for compact audio players, televisions, and DVD players and recorders.

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American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy