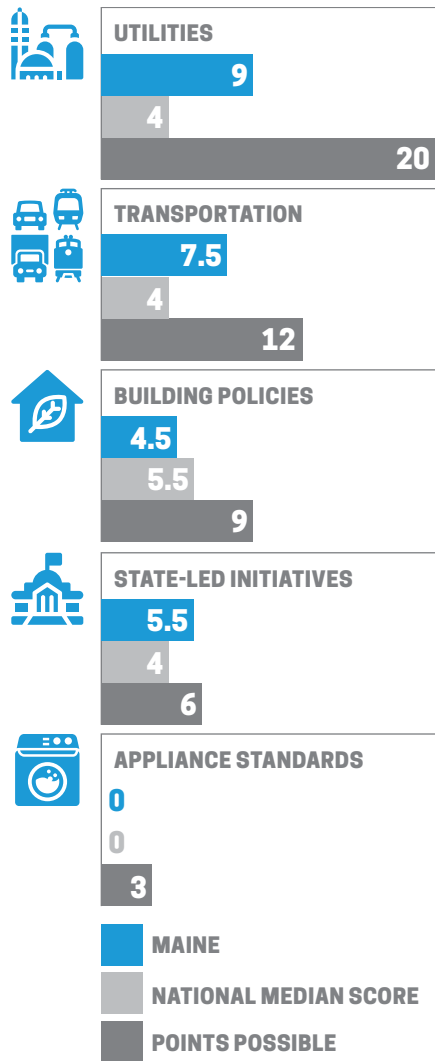


Maine



Maine ranked 16th in the *2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, falling one position compared to 2019. Despite the drop in rank, the state earned a half-point more than it did last year, scoring 26.5 points out of a possible 50.

The 2019 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. The state has also taken significant steps to strengthen its building energy codes, which are currently anticipated to take effect in 2021, and the recently created Maine Climate Council is currently working to deliver a state Climate Action Plan by the end of the year that includes a clean energy economy transition plan.



UTILITIES

Efficiency Maine continues to offer a wide array of efficiency programs led by a mandate to capture all cost-effective energy efficiency opportunities, though limited budgets have kept levels of annual electric savings around 1%. Maine has also been a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) since 2009. And though the state has diverted portions of RGGI revenues as rate relief to large customers in recent years, the state now directs 100% of those funds to Efficiency Maine Trust for efficiency projects including large industrial projects.

TRANSPORTATION

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 in recent years. Maine has more electric vehicle registrations and public charging stations per capita than most states. 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

As of late 2020, Maine's building energy code is still based on the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), however in 2019, the legislature established that state building codes must update to the 2015 or later IECC and will require that they be applied in every municipality in Maine regardless of population. It is expected that these codes, along with a voluntary stretch code, will be in effect by January 2021. Maine is one of the few states to adopt a residential energy use transparency policy.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

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. The state is a member of the RGGI and invests cap-and-trade proceeds toward energy efficiency programs.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

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