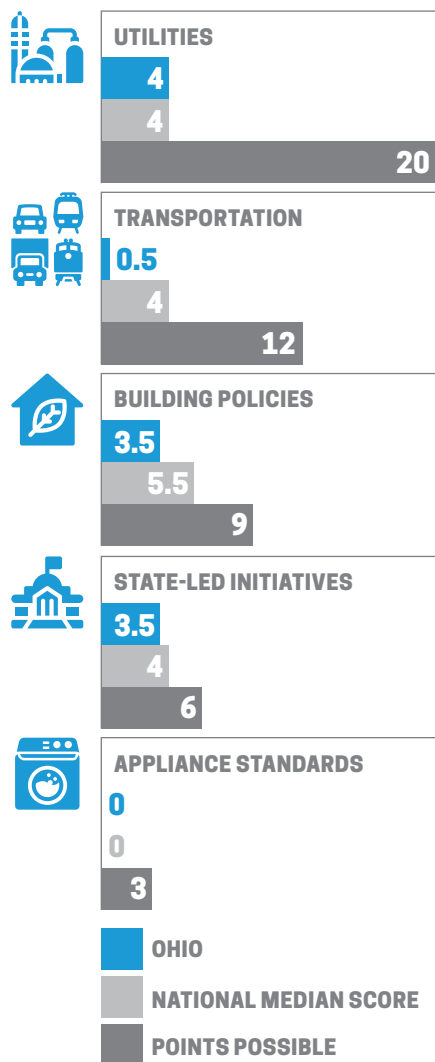


Ohio

37 

Ohio tied for 37th in the *2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, falling four positions in the rankings. The state scored 11.5 points out of a possible 50, 2.5 points less than it earned in 2019.

Ohio took a major step backward on energy efficiency and clean energy last year with the signing of HB 6, delivering substantial subsidies to the state’s nuclear and coal plants while weakening renewable energy goals and effectively ending utility savings targets. This has led to the anticipated termination of nearly all energy efficiency programs statewide by the end of 2020. While several bills have been proposed to repeal HB 6 and restore the state’s energy efficiency resource standards (EERS), the future for energy efficiency in Ohio appears dim at the moment.



UTILITIES

Ohio’s utility-sector efficiency programs were dealt a devastating blow in 2019 with the signing of HB 6. The legislation effectively ends the state’s energy savings goals for 2020 by lowering utility savings targets from 22% to 17.5%, a level that most utilities are on the verge of meeting. The law also expands the number of commercial and industrial customers permitted to opt out of programs and prohibits utility cost recovery for compliance after savings goals are met. With the significant weakening of the state’s efficiency regulations, the future of energy-saving programs for customers is in serious jeopardy.

TRANSPORTATION

The state has a freight plan in place, but opportunities remain to adopt concrete freight efficiency targets or performance measures and to promote more efficient modes of transportation. The state’s burdensome electric vehicle (EV) registration fee, which is among the highest in the United States, impedes consumer EV adoption. There is significant room for improvement in this area.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

Updates to the state’s residential building energy code took effect in July 2019 and reference the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with weakening amendments. Commercial codes are based on the 2012 IECC and 2010 American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1 with amendments. The state offers training and outreach; American Electric Power Ohio and Columbia Gas provide funding for training as part of the Ohio Energy Codes Ambassador Program.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state runs several incentive programs and offers a property tax exemption for energy-efficient projects. The state government leads by example, benchmarking public buildings and encouraging energy savings performance contracts.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

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