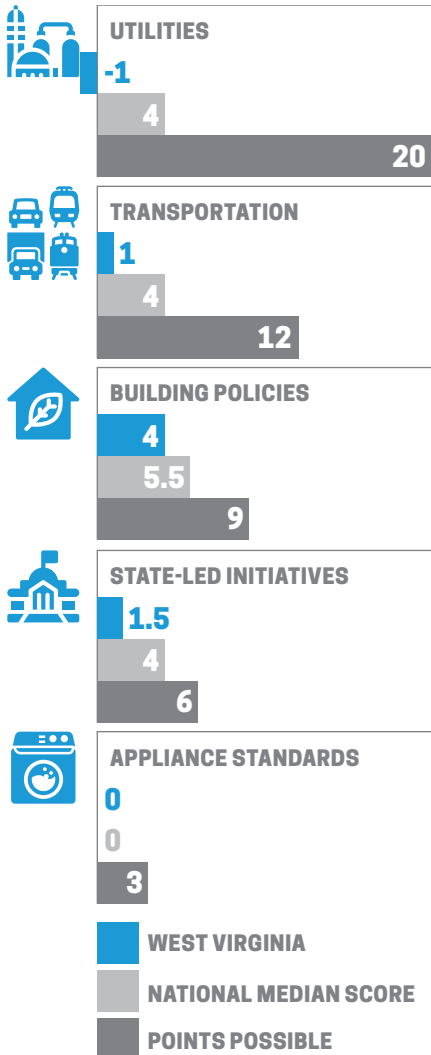


48 

West Virginia

West Virginia tied for 48th in the 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, the same position it held in 2019. The state scored 5.5 points out of a possible 50, 1 point less than it scored last year.

West Virginia’s utility sector investments in energy efficiency rank among the lowest nationwide. To expand savings meaningfully, the state could encourage utilities to value energy efficiency as a low-cost supply side resource and require them to offer efficiency programs to large customers. The state could also adopt policies to incentivize efficient transportation systems, update and encourage local adoption of building energy codes, and reduce energy use in state facilities and fleets.



UTILITIES

Electric utilities in the state deliver some of the lowest levels of savings of any state in the nation, with Appalachian Power reporting minimal savings, and FirstEnergy reporting no savings at all. The state allows large customers to opt out of efficiency programs, limiting savings potential. West Virginia did not report any natural gas efficiency programs, and the state does not promote alternative business models for utilities to encourage them to include energy efficiency as part of resource planning.

TRANSPORTATION

The state has a fund to pay track access fees accrued by commuter rail services. West Virginia has also passed complete streets legislation and a comprehensive freight plan, but there is still significant room for growth.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

While the state requires residential buildings to comply with the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and commercial buildings with American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) 90.1-2010 standards, adoption by jurisdictions is voluntary. The state also offers training and outreach focusing on residential energy code compliance, but could strengthen efficiency by updating to the latest model codes.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state offers energy efficiency services to industrial and commercial businesses, but it does not otherwise lead by example through energy efficiency in public buildings. The West Virginia University Energy Institute conducts energy efficiency research.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

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