

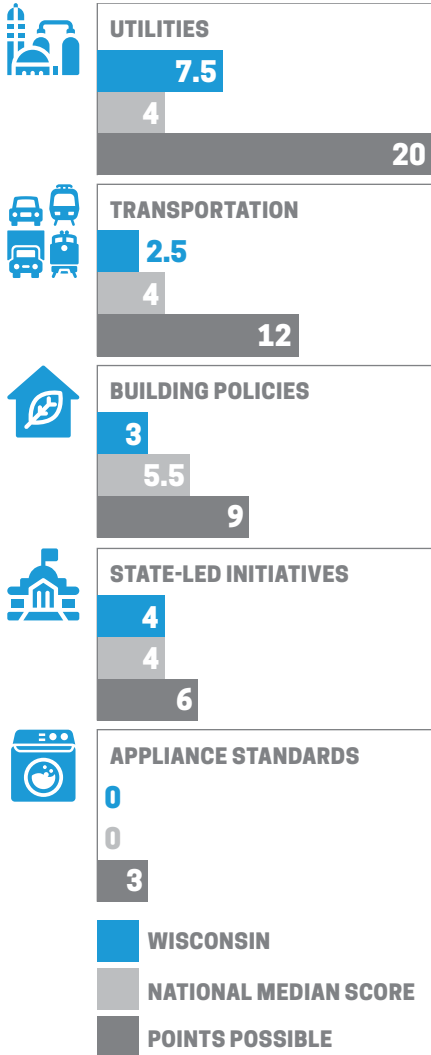
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2020 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

Wisconsin

Wisconsin ranked 26th in the 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling one position from 2019. The state scored 17 points out of a possible 50, 1 point more than it earned last year.

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. 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 state took important initial steps this year in response to the governor’s executive order setting a 100% carbon-free electricity goal for 2050. The Governor’s Task Force on Climate Change met throughout the year to issue recommendations to meet climate goals.



UTILITIES

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 offers performance incentives for successful electric and natural gas programs. All of the state’s investor-owned utilities—including We Energies, Wisconsin Public Service, and Alliant Energy—have set goals to cut carbon emissions 80% by 2050 from 2005 levels.

TRANSPORTATION

The state passed a comprehensive freight plan in 2018 and has committed substantial Volkswagen settlement funds toward electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Since 2019 utility regulators have been closely studying potential policies and standards to help support EVs and related infrastructure. More opportunities are available to help foster the growth of efficient transportation systems.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

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.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state runs a major revolving loan program for manufacturing facilities and PACE Wisconsin offers a uniform, statewide approach to Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing for commercial property owners in member municipalities. 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

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