



2018 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

Colorado

Colorado ranked 14th in the 2018 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, rising one position compared to last year. The state earned 25.5 points out of a possible 50, 2.5 points more than it earned in 2017.

The state's utility-led energy efficiency programs continue to post electricity and gas savings higher than those of most states, with programs poised to expand following recent approval of significantly higher energy savings goals for Xcel Energy. The state provides additional support for efficiency through an array of financial incentives, including PACE financing for commercial properties. Colorado can improve its ranking by pursuing sustainable transportation policies, encouraging investment in combined heat and power, and working with local communities to adopt up-to-date building energy codes.



UTILITIES

8.5

5

20

UTILITIES

Colorado continues to report above-average savings thanks to an energy efficiency resource standard that sets targets for both electricity and natural gas savings. A recently approved increase to Xcel Energy's efficiency targets, 1.6% of sales for the 2019-23 program cycle, is approximately 25% higher than previous targets. There is no decoupling mechanism for electric utilities, but the state's gas utilities may recover lost revenues. Performance incentives are also in place for utilities.



TRANSPORTATION

4.5

3

10

TRANSPORTATION

In 2018 the state announced through executive order that it would adopt new strict vehicle emissions standards aligned with those of California, joining 13 other states that have already done so, and helping Colorado move toward its target of cutting GHG emissions 26% by 2025. Colorado law allows the entire local share of the Highway Users Trust fund to be used for public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian investments. The state also has incentives for high-efficiency vehicles that extend through 2021, and a significant number of electric vehicle registrations throughout the state.



BUILDING POLICIES

5.5

5

8

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

Colorado is a home rule state with a minimum mandatory code equivalent to the 2003 IECC. However a significant amount of construction takes place in jurisdictions that have adopted 2015 IECC standards. The state completed an evaluation of code compliance in 2013, offers code trainings, and also has an active stakeholder advisory group.



COMBINED HEAT AND POWER

1

1.5

4

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER

The state has an interconnection standard and allows renewable-fuel CHP systems and waste heat to power (WHP) systems to qualify under its renewable energy standard. However there are no policies in place that are designed to acquire energy savings from CHP and that apply to all forms of CHP. One new CHP installation was completed in 2017.



STATE-LED INITIATIVES

5

3.5

5

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

Colorado offers several programs to help finance energy efficiency in residential and commercial properties. The state also provides efficiency audits for agricultural projects as well as commercial PACE financing. The Colorado government leads by example, benchmarking energy usage in state buildings and supporting the use of energy savings performance contracts. Several institutions in the state are conducting research focused on energy efficiency.



APPLIANCE STANDARDS

1

0

3

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

In 2014, the state adopted standards for plumbing products including faucets, toilets, urinals, and showerheads. These standards will result in energy savings as well as water savings.

COLORADO

NATIONAL MEDIAN SCORE

POINTS POSSIBLE