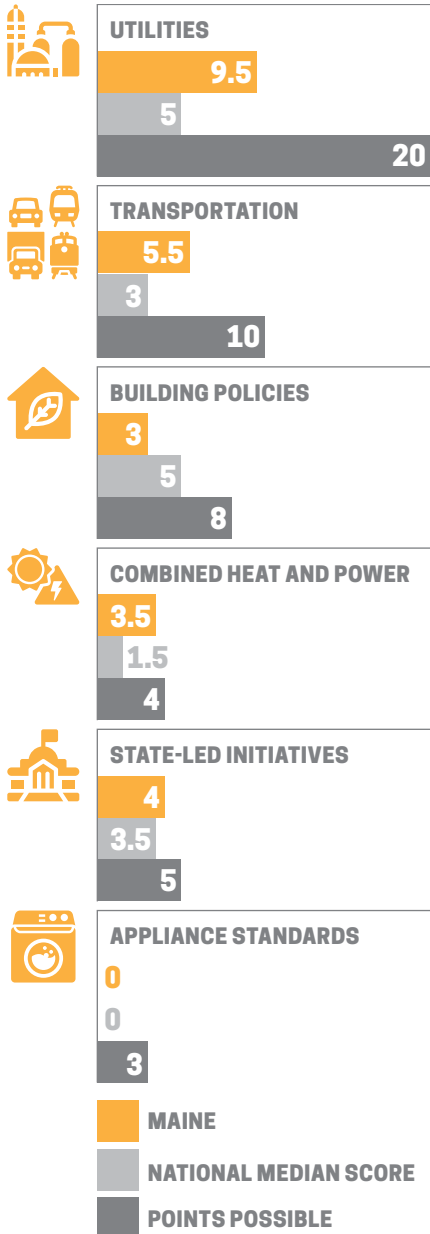




Maine

Maine tied for 14th in the 2018 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling one position compared to 2017. The state scored 25.5 points out of a possible 50, the same score it earned last year.

Efficiency Maine, the state's independent administrator of efficiency programs, continues to report above-average levels of electric savings; however program budgets are not sufficient to meet the savings goals established in the state's most recent triennial plan. The state could expand its efficiency efforts in several ways, including strengthening its building energy codes and pursuing policies that improve efficiency in the transportation sector.



UTILITIES

Efficiency Maine continues to offer a wide array of efficiency programs, but energy savings have been impacted by limited program budgets. In 2016 the state legislature directed that a sizeable portion of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) revenues be returned to certain large electric customers—funds that otherwise would have gone toward measures to strengthen efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The efficiency program administrator has ambitious savings goals, but unpredictable funding makes them difficult to achieve.

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 and an uptick in electric vehicle registrations in recent years. Opportunities remain to offer financial incentives for fuel-efficient vehicles and strengthen efficiency goals within the state's freight plan.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

The Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code made the 2009 IECC mandatory for residential construction and potential code updates are currently being reviewed. Since small communities are not required to comply with the state's building codes, the codes cover only about 60% of the state's population. The state could improve in this area by working with local jurisdictions to enforce code compliance. Maine is one of the few states to adopt a residential energy use transparency policy.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER

The state has an interconnection standard, and includes CHP within its Renewable Resources Portfolio Requirement. Efficiency Maine launched a targeted outreach campaign in 2017 to jumpstart the market for CHP within the state. The state offers incentives for the deployment of CHP and offers technical assistance through Efficiency Maine Trust.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

Maine uses RGGI funds to offer several state-administered financial incentives, including loans, rebates, and incentives. The state government leads by example by setting energy requirements for public buildings and fleets, and encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

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