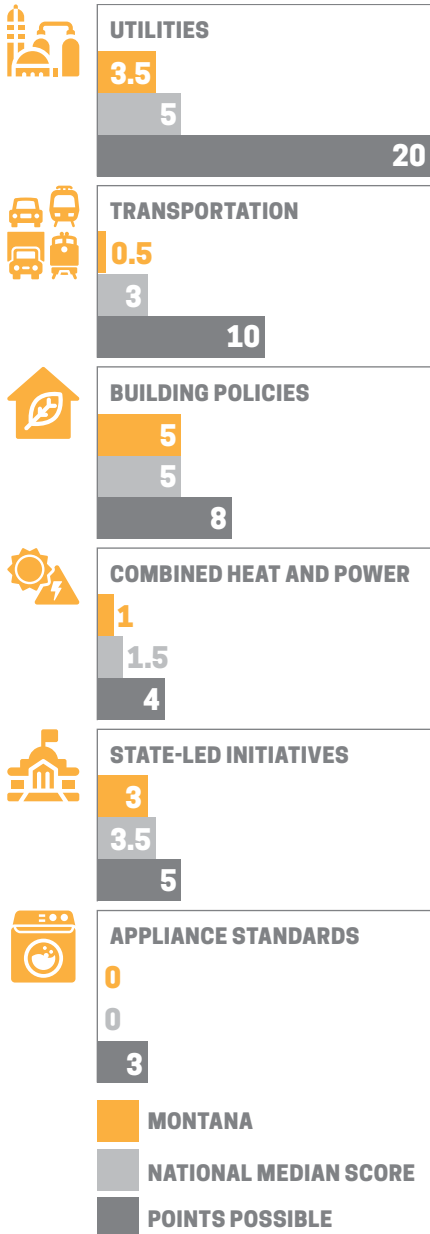




Montana

Montana ranked 37th in the 2018 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling one position since last year. The state scored 13 points out of a possible 50, the same number it earned last year.

Montana’s energy efficiency efforts have lagged in recent years with reported levels of utility savings falling below the national average. Energy efficiency requires continual investment and policy attention. In order to continue moving up the ranks, Montana could increase its focus on energy efficiency as a low-cost utility resource. Efforts to align utility business models with efficiency have been an ongoing source of contention within the state, and no cost recovery mechanisms or performance incentives are currently in place. The state also has room to improve its transportation policies. Although Montana offers technical assistance for CHP development, focusing on more permanent policy-driven incentives could spur additional CHP deployment.



UTILITIES

The state’s utilities invest in electricity and natural gas efficiency programs, but realize below-average energy savings. Montana does not have long-term energy savings targets, nor does it have utility performance incentives that could be aligned with such targets. Lost revenue adjustment mechanisms for electric or natural gas rates were eliminated in 2015. Legislative requirements have established minimum funding levels for low-income energy efficiency and weatherization assistance for public utilities and electric cooperatives.

TRANSPORTATION

Montana earned 0.5 out of a possible 10 points for transportation policies. Although electric vehicle registrations have seen a recent uptick, the state has not focused on policies to encourage efficient transportation systems. There is significant room for improvement in this policy area.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

Residential and commercial buildings must comply with the 2012 IECC, with weakening amendments. The state has completed a baseline compliance study and, working with a stakeholder group, developed a strategic compliance plan. The Department of Environmental Quality offers code trainings and outreach materials. Utilities support code compliance activities.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER

The state has an interconnection standard and provides technical assistance for combined heat and power projects. No new CHP installations were completed in 2017.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

Montana offers tax credits and tax deductions for energy efficiency investments in addition to a loan program. The state government leads by example by setting energy requirements for public buildings, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts. Montana does not have research and development programs focused on energy efficiency.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

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