



## 2019 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

# California

California ranked second in the 2019 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard. It scored 43.5 points out of a possible 50, the same score it earned last year.



### UTILITIES



### TRANSPORTATION



### BUILDING POLICIES



### COMBINED HEAT AND POWER



### STATE-LED INITIATIVES



### APPLIANCE STANDARDS



CALIFORNIA

NATIONAL MEDIAN SCORE

POINTS POSSIBLE

The state's energy efficiency efforts continue to set the standard for others across multiple policy categories, including nation-leading vehicle emissions standards, comprehensive appliance standards, and ambitious net-zero building energy codes. State regulators and others continue to develop strategies to meet the state-adopted goal of doubling energy efficiency savings by 2030. The state has also moved forward with ambitious efforts to decarbonize the buildings sector, authorizing \$200 million over four years to advance low-carbon space and water heating. California also launched a proceeding to coordinate building energy codes and appliance standards with statewide goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from buildings at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.

### UTILITIES (15.5 OF 20 POINTS)

The state has strong long-term savings targets in place for both electric and natural gas utilities. California also has a cap-and-trade program that encourages energy efficiency in homes and businesses. As a result, the state reports levels of utility-sector savings rivaling those of other top states, like Illinois and Maryland. Meanwhile, investor-owned utilities continue to seek ways to strengthen programs in response to the 2015 adoption of SB 350, which requires doubling energy savings by 2030. California utilities are fully decoupled, which encourages energy efficiency, and performance incentives are in place for electric and natural gas utilities.

### TRANSPORTATION (8.5 OF 10 POINTS)

California has some of the most comprehensive transportation and land-use planning policies in the nation. The state has concrete targets and strategies for reducing vehicle miles traveled. California's leadership in setting vehicle emissions standards has served as a model for standards on the federal level. Thirteen states and the District of Columbia currently have adopted California's standards. California also maintains a zero-emission standard that requires increased sales of plug-in hybrid, battery electric, and fuel-cell vehicles from 2018 to 2025. Nine states and the District of Columbia have adopted it. The state also incentivizes the creation of low-income housing near transit facilities and considers the proximity of transit facilities when distributing federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to qualifying property owners.

### BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (7.5 OF 8 POINTS)

California's energy code is one of the most aggressive in the country and has been a powerful vehicle for advancing energy efficiency standards for building equipment. The state's latest codes are the first in the United States to require low-rise residential buildings to have photovoltaic systems sized to meet the electricity load of the building that remains after all energy efficiency requirements are met. The code also stands out because of its field verification requirements for certain measures. The adoption of AB 802 in 2015 strengthened the state's benchmarking program by enabling access to whole building data for buildings above a certain size.

### COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (3 OF 3 POINTS)

California has implemented a variety of policies to encourage combined heat and power (CHP), including interconnection standards, incentive programs, financial assistance, and additional supportive policies. In 2018, five new CHP installations were completed.

### STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (6 OF 6 POINTS)

California earned a perfect score for its state-led energy efficiency initiatives, which include programs for schools, industry, residential consumers, and the public sector. State government leads by example, requiring energy-efficient fleets and buildings, and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. California also conducts a broad range of research focused on advancements in energy efficiency. The state also implements a cap-and-trade program.

### APPLIANCE STANDARDS (3 OF 3 POINTS)

California was the first state in the country to adopt appliance and equipment efficiency standards and continues to lead in the development of standards for new devices and equipment. California has adopted the greatest number of efficiency standards and many other states base their standards on California's. While progress on federal standards slowed in 2017 and 2018, California continued to roll out new appliance standards. Most recently, the state adopted standards for portable air conditioners, air compressors, and portable electric spas.