Hawaii ranked 16th in the 2019 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, the same position it held in 2018. The state earned 25.5 points out of a possible 50, 2.5 more than last year.

Hawaii continues to achieve high levels of energy savings guided by the state’s Clean Energy Initiative and goals to reduce consumption 30% by 2030 through efficiency measures. Hawaii initiated a successful large-scale public benchmarking project in recent years, and in 2019 passed energy and water efficiency standards for five products and adopted current federal appliance standards as state law to protect against their potential repeal. Hawaii leads the country in government energy performance contracting and offers low-interest loan options for energy efficiency to residential and commercial customers through its Green Energy Market Securitization (GEMS) program.

UTILITIES (11 OF 20 POINTS)
Hawaii has set long-term electricity savings targets and achieved electricity savings of almost triple the national average in recent years. In the past year, Hawaii Energy and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) have led a series of workshops to consider how energy efficiency programs can evolve to meet the state’s aggressive decarbonization goals. The state offers performance incentives to the efficiency program administrator and has decoupling rules in place, both of which help to encourage energy efficiency.

TRANSPORTATION (4 OF 10 POINTS)
The state integrates transportation and land use planning and has passed complete streets legislation. There are a notable number of electric vehicle registrations in Hawaii. The state also considers the proximity of transit facilities when distributing federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to qualifying property owners.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (5.5 OF 8 POINTS)
In 2015 the state voted to adopt the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with state-specific amendments for commercial and residential new construction requirements; however formal adoption of the updated codes is still pending in each of the counties, hampering compliance efforts. The Hawaii State Energy Office completed an energy codes compliance study in 2018 and is active in providing training workshops to building code officials. Hawaii is also one of the few states with a statewide residential energy use transparency policy.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (1 OF 3 POINTS)
The state includes combined heat and power (CHP) as an eligible resource within its renewable energy standard, but otherwise has limited policies to encourage CHP. One new CHP system was installed in 2018.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (2.5 OF 6 POINTS)
The state government offers financing for renewable energy and energy efficiency to residents and businesses. Hawaii also leads by example, requiring energy-efficient fleets, benchmarking buildings, and encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts. The University of Hawaii conducts research and development focused on energy efficiency. The state does not yet have any carbon pricing policies in place.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (1.5 OF 3 POINTS)
Hawaii adopted appliance standards for five products in 2019 and included protections against the repeal of federal standards. The state’s new standards are projected to save Hawaiians up to $38 million on their utility bills in 2025.