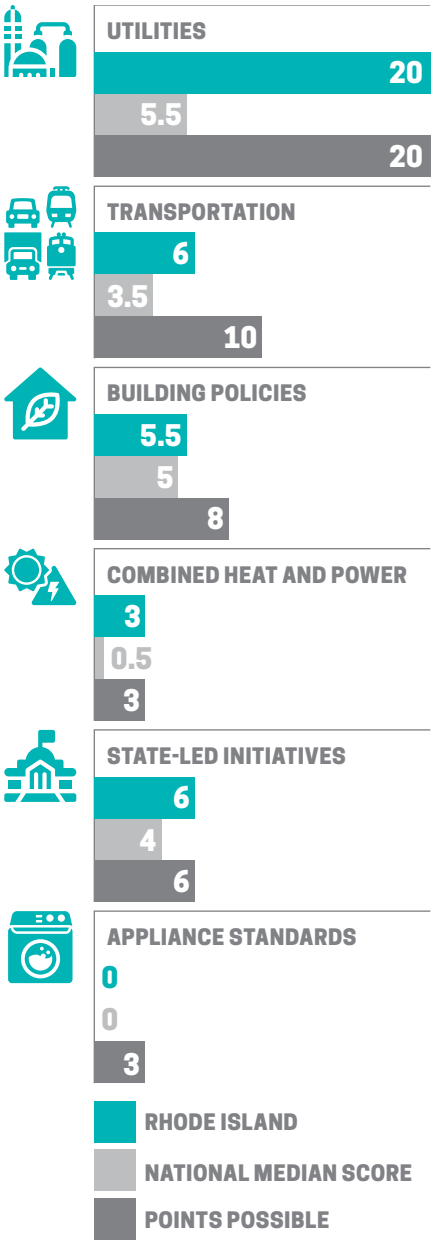
2019 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

Rhode Island

Rhode Island tied for third in the *2019 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, the same position it held last year. The state earned 40.5 points out of a possible 50, a half-point less than it earned in 2018.



Rhode Island continues to rank high among the top states in the *State Scorecard*, with National Grid meeting ambitious savings targets through successful programs outlined in its three-year Least Cost Procurement Plan. Rhode Island continues to look for ways to capture untapped savings through innovative pilot programs and planning efforts intended to achieve zero-energy buildings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

UTILITIES (20 OF 20 POINTS)

Rhode Island earned a perfect score for its utility policies and programs for the sixth year in a row and continues to achieve among the highest levels of savings in the country. Efficiency program administrators in the state devote notable levels of funding to acquire all cost-effective energy efficiency resources. Rhode Island has set aggressive energy savings targets as part of its energy efficiency resource standard, which includes both electricity and natural gas.

TRANSPORTATION (6 OF 10 POINTS)

The state integrates transportation and land use planning, sets a goal for greenhouse gas emissions reductions from the transportation sector, and devotes significant funding to transportation initiatives. Rhode Island has set tailpipe emissions standards and passed complete streets legislation. In addition, the state has seen an increase in electric vehicle registrations and a decrease in vehicle miles traveled per capita in recent years. 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 (5.5 OF 8 POINTS)

New building construction must currently comply with a weakened version of the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), although the state is reviewing the 2015 IECC. The state also has a voluntary stretch code for commercial and residential buildings. Rhode Island has completed a baseline compliance study for commercial and residential buildings and conducts an array of ongoing activities to improve compliance rates. The state has partnered with Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) to advance issuance and listings of home energy ratings. In addition, National Grid unveiled plans to construct the state's first net zero energy housing development this year as part of its Zero Ready Demonstration Program to support growth of the net zero energy home market.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (3 OF 3 POINTS)

The state has an interconnection standard that is favorable to combined heat and power (CHP), offers incentives for CHP deployment, and includes cost-effective and efficient CHP as an eligible resource within its energy efficiency resource standard. National Grid has also established CHP production goals and offers technical assistance. The Department of Environmental Management works to streamline air permitting for certain CHP systems. The state has also codified the use of nonwires alternatives for promoting the state's policy goals of enhancing grid reliability and resilience and includes CHP as an eligible measure.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (6 OF 6 POINTS)

The state offers a variety of energy efficiency incentives for consumers and has an active property assessed clean energy (PACE) program. State government leads by example by requiring efficient public buildings, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. The University of Rhode Island Outreach Center conducts research focused on energy efficiency. The state is a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and reinvests cap-and-trade proceeds towards energy efficiency programs.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OF 3 POINTS)

Rhode Island is one of the few states to set appliance standards, although no standards have gone into effect in the past three years. The most recent standards were adopted in 2006 and all but two have been preempted by federal standards.

ACEEE
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy