2019 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

Utah

The state passed legislation in 2019 completing significant updates to its commercial building energy code; however utility-sector energy savings dipped in 2018 as Rocky Mountain Power scaled back its energy efficiency programs. Establishing stand-alone energy savings goals and enabling performance incentives would encourage utilities to consider cost-effective efficiency to a greater extent in their resource planning processes. Other opportunities to improve include pursuing sustainable transportation policies and promoting combined heat and power (CHP) systems.

UTILITIES (6.5 OF 20 POINTS)
Utilities implement both electricity and natural gas efficiency programs; however savings fell to around the national average in 2018 as Rocky Mountain Power scaled back programs. In 2008, Utah adopted a renewable portfolio standard that included energy efficiency measures; however specific efficiency savings targets have not been codified by the Utah Public Service Commission. Decoupling is in place for natural gas utilities.

TRANSPORTATION (3 OF 10 POINTS)
In recent years, Utah has seen a significant number of electric vehicles on the road. The state has also enacted complete streets legislation and offers incentives for high-efficiency vehicles.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (5.5 OF 8 POINTS)
During its 2019 session, the Utah legislature passed HB 218, adopting the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for commercial provisions in its entirety. The amended 2015 IECC remains the statewide residential energy code. The state will undertake a new compliance study in 2019. In late 2018, the US Department of Energy selected the Institute for Market Transformation’s proposal to evaluate residential energy code compliance in Utah and Arizona.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (0.5 OF 3 POINTS)
The state has an interconnection standard and offers some financing incentives for renewable-fueled CHP. One new CHP installation was completed in 2018.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (4 OF 6 POINTS)
The state offers two loan programs for state-owned buildings and schools. State government leads by example by requiring energy-efficient public buildings and fleets, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. Research on energy efficiency occurs through the Alliance for Computationally-Guided Design of Energy Efficiency Electronic Materials and the USTAR Energy Research Triangle Program.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OF 3 POINTS)
Utah has not set appliance standards beyond those required by the federal government.