As a group, the western utilities performed the best in the 2020 Utility Energy Efficiency Scorecard with four out of six utilities falling in the top 10 overall rankings. This includes SDG&E in third, PG&E in fifth, LADWP in seventh, and PGE in ninth place. Three of these utilities were also in the top 10 in 2017, with LADWP joining them as the most improved utility, climbing 13 spots from 20th to 7th place. SCE fell just out of the top 10 at 13th, and PSE placed in the middle of the pack at 27th.

California’s strong energy efficiency policies and commitment to mitigating climate change helped the utilities achieve high savings. All four utilities delivered over 1.5% energy savings in 2018. However, the state’s energy savings goals for investor-owned utilities decline in future years, which may impact future performance.

PGE and its energy efficiency administrator, Energy Trust of Oregon, are leading efficiency innovation by pursuing a large slate of emerging programs. Washington may pursue utility business model reform that can enable more energy efficiency with legislation that opens the door for performance-based ratemaking.