

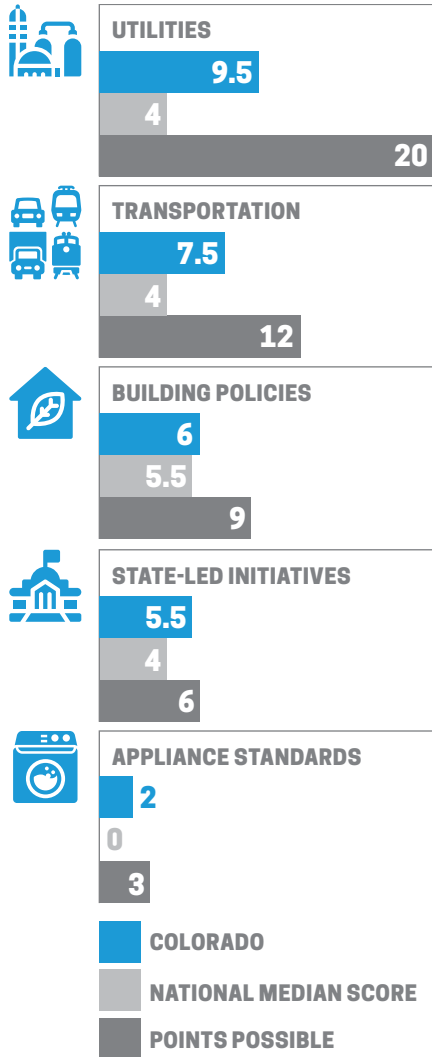


## 2020 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

# Colorado

Colorado tied for 11th in the 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, three places higher than last year's rank. The state earned 30.5 points out of a possible 50, 3.5 more than it earned in 2019.

The state's utility-led energy efficiency programs report electricity and gas savings well above average, which continue to climb higher in response to stronger Xcel Energy savings goals. State policymakers have been busy advancing plans that will address new statewide climate goals signed last year targeting a 90% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) by 2050 (HB19-1261). These efforts have included new appliance and water efficiency standards, measures to strengthen local building energy codes, and plans to scale up utility investments to promote in electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and adoption. In September the governor released a draft GHG Pollution Reduction Roadmap with near-term actions to meet the state's 2030 and 2050 climate goals.



### UTILITIES

Colorado continues to report above-average utility savings thanks to an energy efficiency resource standard that sets targets for both electricity and natural gas savings. Following a wave of important clean energy legislation signed in 2019—including a 90% economy-wide GHG reduction goal—the Colorado Public Utilities Commission got to work on related legislated calls to reform utility distribution system planning and business models. These efforts have included an investigation into a performance-based regulation (PBR) model that would potentially include performance metrics and corresponding financial incentives aligned with public benefits goals like safety, cost efficiency, and emissions reductions.

### TRANSPORTATION

The state's efficient transportation policies include tailpipe emissions standards, freight system efficiency goals, and incentives for high-efficiency vehicles. In 2018, state regulators adopted strict new vehicle emissions standards aligned with those of California, helping Colorado move toward its target of cutting GHG emissions 26% by 2025. Colorado law allows the entire local share of the Highway Users Trust Fund to be used for public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian investments. The state is also among national leaders for its number of EV registrations and public charging stations per capita. The state considers the proximity of transit facilities when distributing federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to qualifying property owners.

### BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

Colorado took a major step forward in strengthening efficiency in new construction in 2019 with the adoption of HB 19-1260, which requires local governments to adopt and enforce one of the three most recent versions of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) at a minimum upon updating any other building code. By statute, the Colorado Energy Office provides energy code education to builders, designers, engineers, and architects. The state's Energy Code Compliance Collaborative provides further support in facilitating compliance with local energy codes.

### STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

Colorado offers several programs to help finance energy efficiency in residential and commercial properties. The state also provides efficiency audits for agricultural projects as well as commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. The Colorado government leads by example, requiring energy-efficient fleets and building construction, benchmarking energy usage in state buildings, and supporting the use of energy savings performance contracts. Several institutions in the state are conducting research focused on energy efficiency.

### APPLIANCE STANDARDS

In 2014, the state adopted standards for plumbing products including faucets, toilets, urinals, and showerheads. These standards continue to deliver energy as well as water savings. New standards passed in 2019 covered 15 products, in addition to provisions protecting against the repeal of federal standards, including the light bulb rollback.