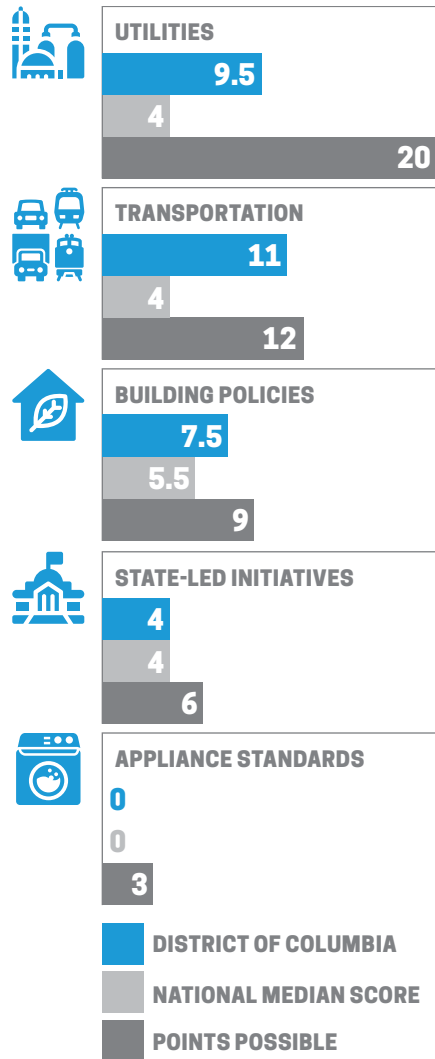




2020 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

District of Columbia

Washington, DC ranked eighth in the 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, rising three places compared to last year. The District scored 33 points out of a possible 50, 4 more than it earned last year.



The District of Columbia maintains a diverse suite of energy efficiency policies that have helped spur a notable rise in the Scorecard ranks in recent years. The District Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU) continues to ramp up implementation of energy efficiency programs and realize higher levels of energy savings each year as DC pursues goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 50% by 2032 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. In 2018, the District passed legislation to establish a green bank, which has enabled DC to leverage public funds to attract private capital investment and expand financing of clean energy projects. In 2019, new clean energy legislation provided additional funding to the green bank and expanded energy performance standards for existing buildings.

UTILITIES

Over the past several years, DCSEU has been boosting programs, achieving electric savings of 1.2% in 2018 and 2019. The District’s electric utility is decoupled, allowing energy efficiency, and performance incentives to be in place for DCSEU. The District also has demonstrated a commitment to strengthening services for underserved residents by offering programs that bring energy efficiency and green jobs to low-income communities.

TRANSPORTATION

The District has a tailpipe emissions standard in place and offers incentives for the purchase of high-efficiency vehicles. Washington, DC has more electric vehicle (EV) registrations and public charging stations available per capita than most states and saw a reduction in vehicle miles traveled over the past several years. Incentives are available for EV purchases and the District allocates a significant amount of funding to transit initiatives. It also encourages sustainable, compact, accessible development through its zoning laws and has passed complete streets legislation. Sustainable DC 2.0 includes a GHG emissions reduction goal for the transportation sector. The District 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

This year a new district building energy code went into effect based on the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) 90.1-2013, and including amendments establishing an alternative compliance pathway for net zero buildings. There is also a Green Construction Code in place which applies to large commercial construction projects and multifamily buildings. Legislation adopted in 2008 requires benchmarking for commercial and multifamily buildings, and over the next few years the 2018 Clean Energy DC Act (CEDC) increasingly expands the size threshold for buildings subject to the requirement. The act also establishes Building Energy Performance Standards to drive energy performance improvements in existing buildings.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

Washington, DC runs the Green Building Fund Green Light Grant Program and provides commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. The District also leads by example through energy savings and benchmarking requirements for public buildings and an efficient fleets policy. In 2018, the DC Council passed legislation creating the DC Green Bank with a goal of accelerating the clean economy by leveraging private investment and helping to achieve the District’s plan of reducing GHG emissions 50% by 2032.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

The District of Columbia has not adopted any new appliance standards in the past three years. Its most recent standards were adopted in 2007; all but two have been preempted by federal standards.