

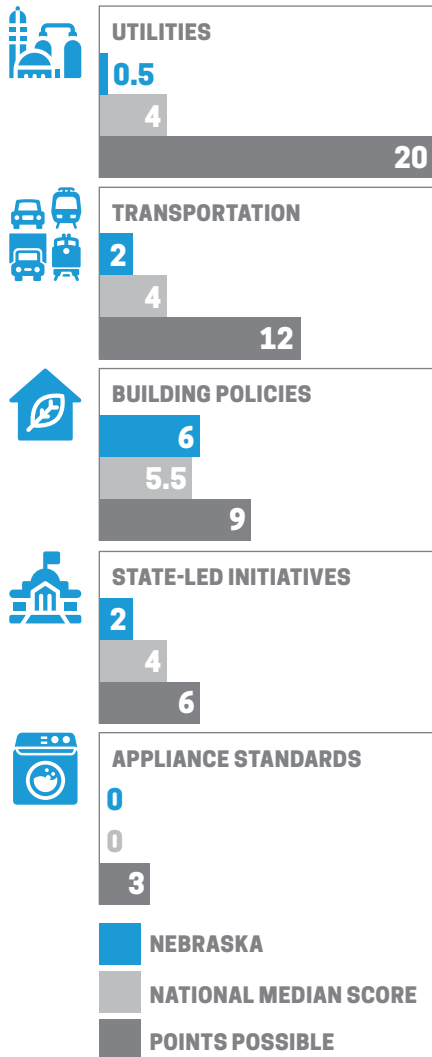
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2020 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

Nebraska

Nebraska ranked 41st in the 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, rising two positions compared to last year. The state scored 10.5 points out of a possible 50, 1 point more than it earned in 2019.

Nebraska made waves last year with legislation updating its state building energy codes to the unamended 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) 90.1-2016 standard. Though Nebraska’s exclusive reliance on public power utilities leads to unique challenges, it has an opportunity to engage stakeholders and regulators throughout the state to set up long-term energy efficiency goals. The state could also benefit from investing in efficient transportation systems and encouraging lead by example policies.



UTILITIES

A network of public power utilities serves Nebraska and offers some limited electricity efficiency programs; however statewide electricity savings are below average, and no natural gas efficiency programs are in place. Nebraska faces some regulatory challenges in incentivizing efficiency due to the nature of its utilities and does not have decoupling mechanisms or performance incentives in place.

TRANSPORTATION

The state has a freight plan in place and is exploring options to accelerate adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), but more opportunities are available to encourage efficient transportation systems. Through the Nebraska Power Association Electric Vehicle Task Force the challenges and opportunities presented by EVs is continually being assessed. The Task Force has been essential in the design and establishment of EV charging stations across the state.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

Building-sector efficiency took a major step forward in 2019 with the approval of LB405, which transitioned building energy codes from the 2009 IECC to the unamended 2018 IECC codes for residential and commercial construction. The state has also completed a comprehensive set of activities to ensure compliance with building energy codes. The Nebraska Energy Code Compliance Collaborative (NECCC) meets regularly and continues to work on issues of relevance such as training and funding sources.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state runs the long-standing Dollar and Energy Savings Loan Program. State government benchmarks energy use but has not pursued other lead by example initiatives. The state does not yet have any carbon pricing policies in place.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

Nebraska has not set appliance standards beyond those required by the federal government.