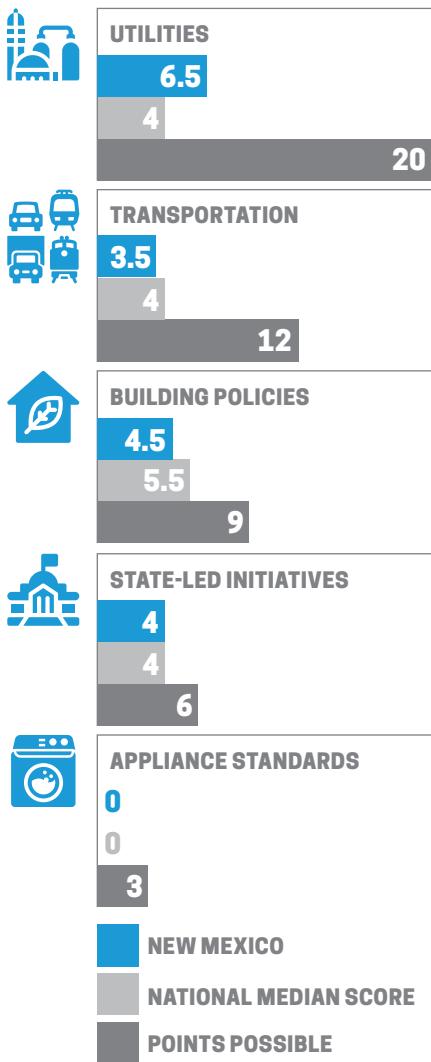




New Mexico

New Mexico ranked 24th in the 2020 *State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, rising nine places compared to last year. The state scored 18.5 points out of a possible 50, 4.5 points more than it earned in 2019.



The state moved forward on a number of important efficiency initiatives following the 2019 signing of the state's Energy Transition Act, committing public utilities to a zero-carbon electricity goal by 2045. Utilities are also strengthening efficiency programs in response to HB-291, which set a new 2025 target to achieve savings of 5% relative to 2020 sales, raised the cap on efficiency spending, and enabled decoupling. Additionally, an executive order signed by the governor last year moved the state to replace its long-outdated energy codes for new construction with the latest 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) model codes, turning the corner for buildings sector efficiency. The governor has also called for the state's adoption of California's standards for tailpipe emissions and zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) in 2020. Plans are also in development to expand electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure throughout the state.

UTILITIES

Utilities administer both electricity and natural gas efficiency programs with savings levels that currently hover around the national median. However, legislation signed in 2019 is poised to usher in a new era for energy efficiency in the state. HB-291 established energy savings requirements of no less than 5% of 2020 sales by 2025, a substantial increase beyond those of previous years. The law also raised the cap on efficiency spending, and by establishing decoupling, removed the disincentive for utilities to save energy. Performance incentives are available to electric utilities.

TRANSPORTATION

The state is in the process of adopting California's ZEV program, which requires increasing production of plug-in hybrid, battery electric, and fuel cell vehicles from 2018 to 2025. Plans to further incentivize EVs and EV charging infrastructure are pending. New Mexico also has a comprehensive freight plan, but there remains significant room for growth in this policy area.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

In response to the governor's 2019 Executive Order 2019-03, the New Mexico Construction Industries Commission (CIC) voted in August 2020 to adopt the 2018 New Mexico Energy Conservation Code (NMECC), based on the 2018 IECC with state-specific amendments. The new code reduces energy use in new residential and commercial buildings by about 25% relative to the previously adopted 2009 IECC.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state offers a sustainable building tax credit, authorizes bonds for energy efficiency investments, and has enabled Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, although active programs have yet to be established. The state government implements a comprehensive set of lead by example programs, including requiring efficient buildings and fleets, benchmarking public buildings, and encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts. At the direction of Executive Order 2019-03, the state's Climate Change Task Force is researching ways to improve the energy efficiency requirements for public buildings.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

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