

Oregon tied for ninth in the 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, the same position it held last year. The state scored 32 points out of a possible 50, the same score it earned in 2019.



2020 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

Oregon

Oregon remains a top-10 national leader in energy efficiency, reporting among the highest levels of electric savings in the northwest. Energy Trust of Oregon reported exceeding the energy goals of its 2015–19 Strategic Plan and recently completed its next five-year strategic plan, which includes a greater focus on underserved customers. In addition, Governor Brown signed a sweeping climate executive order this year which calls for new appliance standards, accelerating electric vehicle (EV) adoption, and strengthening building energy codes for new residential and commercial construction (EO 20-04).

UTILITIES

Oregon's third-party efficiency administrator, Energy Trust of Oregon, offers a comprehensive portfolio of electricity and natural gas efficiency programs that consistently report savings above 1%, exceeding the national average. The state continues to prioritize outreach to moderate-income, rural, and underrepresented customers through a variety of efficiency efforts. The Bonneville Power Administration and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance also work with utilities to generate energy savings within the state. An energy efficiency resource standard that sets long-term energy savings targets is in place.

TRANSPORTATION

The state has a comprehensive set of efficient transportation policies in place, including targets for reduced vehicle miles traveled, complete streets legislation, and adoption of California's Low-Emission Vehicle and Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) programs. Oregon passed major transportation legislation in 2017 that included new incentives for ZEVs, and passed legislation last year that required 90% of all vehicles sold and 50% of all registered vehicles in the state be ZEVs by 2035. The state now has more EV registrations and public charging stations per capita than most states.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

The 2017 Oregon Residential Specialty Code is equivalent to the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and includes mandatory alternative efficiency package pathways for envelope efficiency and equipment such as furnaces, water heaters, and heat pumps that exceed federal minimums. The 2019 Oregon Zero Energy Ready Commercial Code went into effect late in the year and is based on American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1-2016. A new 2020 Executive Order (EO 20-04) also provides an aggressive target for both residential and commercial codes to be 60% better than the baseline year of 2006 by the year 2030. Oregon has completed a variety of activities to ensure compliance, including establishing a stakeholder advisory board and involving utilities in code compliance efforts.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state offers tax credits for energy-efficient construction and runs loan and grant programs to encourage energy efficiency in homes and businesses. The state government leads by example by requiring energy-efficient public buildings and prioritizing ZEVs in state fleets, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. In 2019, the state also created a 10-year plan to reduce the energy burden and improve energy efficiency in affordable housing across the state.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

In March 2020, Governor Kate Brown signed Executive Order 20-04 directing the Oregon Department of Energy to "establish and update energy efficiency standards for products at least to levels equivalent to the most stringent standards among West Coast jurisdictions." The order specifies 10 products for which standards have been adopted by other states and opens the door for additional product standards to be added. The rulemaking, completed this year, included a performance standard for grid-connected water heaters and efficiency standards for a variety of other equipment. The standards require legislative approval.

