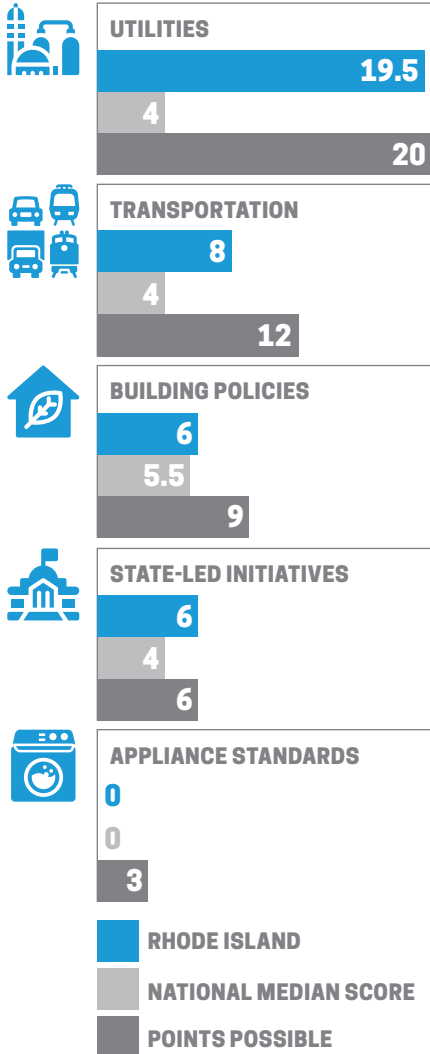




Rhode Island

Rhode Island ranked fourth in the 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, one position lower than it held last year. The state earned 39.5 points out of a possible 50, 1 point less than it earned in 2019.

Rhode Island continues to rank high among the top states in the State Scorecard, with National Grid meeting ambitious savings targets through successful programs outlined in its three-year Least Cost Procurement Plan. Rhode Island continues to look for ways to capture untapped savings through innovative pilot programs and planning efforts intended to achieve zero-energy buildings and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.



UTILITIES

Rhode Island continues to achieve among the highest levels of savings in the country. Efficiency program administrators in the state devote notable levels of funding to acquire all cost-effective energy efficiency resources. Rhode Island has set aggressive energy savings targets as part of its energy efficiency resource standard, which includes both electricity and natural gas. There has also been an increased focus on extending energy efficiency programming for delivered fuels customers, which is an underserved population in Rhode Island. In 2019, utility programs began offering enhanced incentives for air source heat pumps to delivered fuel customers, and their 2021-23 plans call for increased contractor training around heat-pump technology, enhanced recruitment, and partnerships with educational institutions to promote energy efficiency as a career.

TRANSPORTATION

The state integrates transportation and land use planning, sets a goal for GHG emissions reductions from the transportation sector, and devotes significant funding to transportation initiatives. Rhode Island has set tailpipe emissions standards and passed complete streets legislation. In addition, the state has more public charging stations per capita than most states and has seen a decrease in vehicle miles traveled per capita in recent years. The state 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

In 2019 Rhode Island adopted the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for residential buildings and 2015 IECC and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) 90.1-2010 for commercial construction, albeit with weakening amendments. The state also released a voluntary stretch code in 2018. Rhode Island has completed a baseline compliance study for commercial and residential buildings and conducts an array of ongoing activities to improve compliance rates. It has partnered with Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) to advance issuance and listings of home energy ratings. In 2019, National Grid's Residential New Construction Program supported the state's first-zero energy ready neighborhood project.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state offers a variety of energy efficiency incentives for consumers and has an active Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. State government leads by example by requiring efficient public buildings and fleets, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. The state is a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and since 2012 has reinvested more than two-thirds of cap-and-trade proceeds towards energy efficiency programs.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

Rhode Island is one of the few states to set appliance standards, although none have gone into effect in the past three years. The state adopted its most recent standards in 2006 and all but two have been preempted by federal standards.