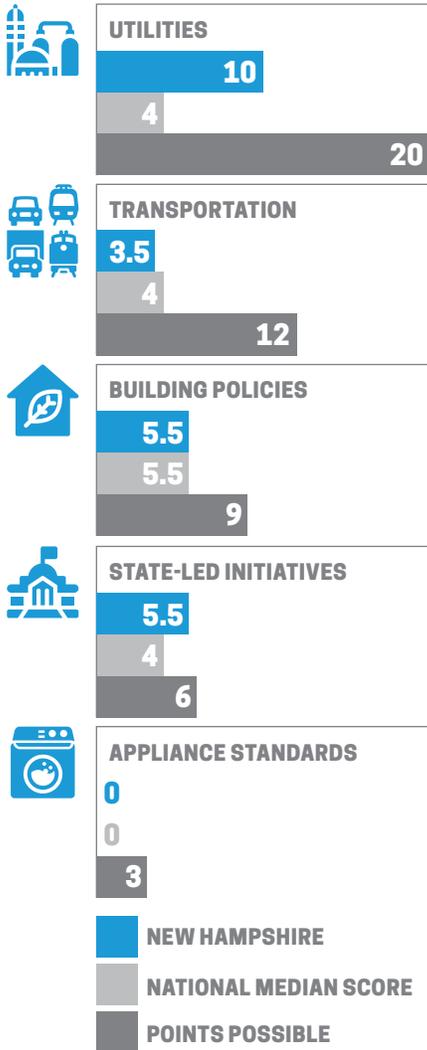




New Hampshire

New Hampshire ranked 18th in the *2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, two places higher than it held in 2019. The state scored 24.5 points out of a possible 50, 3.5 points more than last year.

Utility sector savings have gradually ramped up since the state established its first-ever energy efficiency resource standard in 2016. In September 2020, the state’s electric and gas utilities submitted proposed three-year plans—including new programs like an energy optimization heat pump pilot—that would significantly strengthen programs beginning in 2021. Opportunities remain to pursue efficiency in other policy areas, such as promoting efficient transportation systems and advancing vehicle electrification.



UTILITIES

With the public utility commission’s approval of an energy efficiency resource standard in 2016, New Hampshire’s utilities have begun to ramp up savings in accordance with targets set to increase annually from 0.8% of electric sales in 2018 to 1.3% in 2020. The Settlement Agreement approving these energy targets also included a lost revenue adjustment mechanism and described plans to potentially replace this with a decoupling policy in the future. The state also tracks avoided greenhouse gas emissions achieved through energy efficiency programs.

TRANSPORTATION

Public and private stakeholders founded the “Drive Electric NH” coalition in 2017 with a mission to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and installation of supporting charging infrastructure by increasing EV awareness through education and outreach. This has helped to encourage EV adoption statewide and is partially responsible for the state having more EV registrations per capita than most. New Hampshire integrates transportation and land use planning and has a comprehensive freight plan but has not otherwise pursued policies to encourage efficient transportation systems.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

New Hampshire updated its state building codes to the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), effective September 2019; however, weakening amendments undermine the codes’ ultimate efficiency. The state has completed a strategic compliance plan and allows utilities to use energy efficiency funds to provide code trainings. The New Hampshire Energy Code Compliance Collaborative has been meeting quarterly.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state runs two loan programs and has one active Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. New Hampshire also leads by example by setting energy savings goals for buildings and fleets, benchmarking energy use in public buildings, and encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts. The state is a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and reinvests cap-and-trade proceeds towards energy efficiency.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

The state’s most recent standards were set in 2008, two of which have been preempted by federal standards.