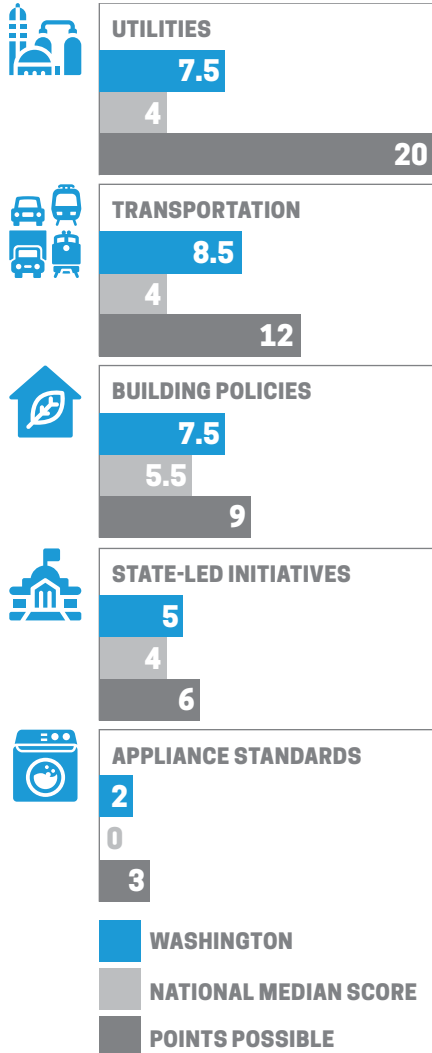




Washington

Washington tied for 11th place in the 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, one position lower than in 2019. The state scored 30.5 points out of 50, 1 less than it earned last year.

Washington passed an ambitious slate of climate legislation in 2019, including a law requiring that 100% of the state’s electricity comes from clean energy sources by 2045. Among many other provisions supporting the state’s efficiency efforts, the legislation included calling for strong energy performance incentives for existing large commercial buildings, increasing investment in electric vehicles (EVs) and charging infrastructure, and setting efficiency standards for a variety of energy and water appliances sold in the state. The state has continued to report strong levels of utility savings and recently adopted policies that appear poised to strengthen economy-wide energy efficiency performance. The state also plans to adopt all cost-effective utility natural gas savings targets by 2022.



UTILITIES

Washington utilities implement both electricity and natural gas efficiency programs, and they are required to acquire all cost-effective, reliable, and feasible energy efficiency. The state has long-term electricity targets, with new natural gas savings targets expected to take effect in 2022 per HB 1257. Washington has also implemented decoupling for electric and natural gas utilities.

TRANSPORTATION

The state has long been a leader with respect to smart growth initiatives and has an ambitious target to reduce vehicle miles traveled per capita 50% by 2050, from 1990 levels. The state has a dedicated revenue stream for transportation projects and requires complete streets planning to be incorporated into construction and retrofit projects. The state has also adopted California’s tailpipe emission standards, as well as its Zero-Emission Vehicle program, which went into effect June 2020. Washington also has more EV registrations and public charging stations per capita than most states.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

The state legislature passed HB 1257 in 2019, the first statewide adoption of an energy performance standard for existing buildings. The act directs the adoption of energy use intensity targets for commercial buildings greater than 50,000 square feet and will be implemented as a performance-based incentive program beginning in 2021, and as a mandatory requirement beginning in 2026. The current state code references the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for residential buildings, and 2015 IECC and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1-2013 for commercial buildings, including provisions designed to achieve additional energy savings. The state also convenes a stakeholder advisory group and offers code trainings. Washington is one of the few states to require commercial building energy use transparency.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state offers several financial incentives for energy efficiency projects in residential, commercial, and public buildings. State government leads by example by requiring energy-efficient public buildings and fleets, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. The Smart Buildings Center and Washington State University Energy Program conduct energy efficiency research.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

In 2019 lawmakers passed HB 1444, which set energy and water efficiency standards for 16 products and adopted 2020 federal light bulb standards as well as any remaining federal standards into state law to protect against rollbacks. The legislation included a first-in-the-nation standard for new electric storage water heaters, requiring them to be grid ready.