

Minnesota improves to 9th in 2017 ACEEE State Energy Efficiency Scorecard

Minnesota improved to 9th in the nation (from 10th in 2016) in the [2017 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard](#) (pdf), according to a report released Sept. 28 by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE). The scorecard assesses state policies and programs that improve energy efficiency and ranked Minnesota in the top 10 for the 10th time in the 11 years of the scorecard. Massachusetts and California were the top two states for the second straight year. Minnesota scored 33 points out of a possible 50, up 2 points from the 2016 Scorecard.

The State Energy Efficiency Scorecard measures the progress of state policies and programs that save energy while also benefiting the environment and promoting growth. It uses data vetted by state energy officials to rank states in six categories:

- Utility and Public Benefits Programs & Policies
- Transportation Policies
- Building Energy Code Policies
- Combined Heat and Power
- State Government Initiatives
- Appliance Efficiency Standards

Minnesota tied Connecticut for fourth best in the Utility and Public Benefits Programs & Policies category, with 14.5 of a possible 20 points, up 2 points from a year ago. Minnesota utilities administer both electricity and natural gas efficiency programs and continued to post high levels of energy savings in 2016, the 2017 Scorecard reports. Minnesota's performance of utility natural gas energy efficiency programs, measured in energy savings, had the highest ranking of all states, as it saved 30.63 MMtherms in 2016 (equivalent to 1.4% of commercial and residential retail sales).

Minnesota's performance in Utility and Public Benefits Programs & Policies category was summarized in the report: "Minnesota has a long record of customer energy efficiency programs offered by both investor-owned and publicly owned utilities. Minnesota has achieved significant savings from these programs, which have been in place in various forms for well over two decades. These programs and efforts have remained steadfast in Minnesota without any of the interruption or upheavals that occurred in other states that restructured their electric utility industries."

Minnesota also ranked high in the State Government Initiatives category, where it scored six out of a possible six points along with five other states. The report summarized the state's performance in this category: "Minnesota offers multiple loan programs for energy efficiency investments as well as PACE financing. The state government leads by example by requiring energy-efficient public buildings and fleets, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts. Research focused on energy efficiency takes place at several institutions in the state."

[Read more](#) about Minnesota's Scorecard performance. The [entire scorecard](#) is available for downloading.

ACEEE State Energy Efficiency Scorecard Top Ten States

1. Massachusetts
2. California
3. Rhode Island
4. Vermont
5. Oregon
6. Connecticut
7. New York and Washington
9. Minnesota
10. Maryland