50-State Scorecard Reveals Utah’s Energy Efficiency is Slipping While Other States Are Ramping Up

Utah drops another 2 places in national ranking

Salt Lake City, UT - Utah is falling behind in the national race to lead on policies and programs that deliver energy savings to Utah families and businesses. According to the 2019 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, released today by the nonprofit American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, a rising number of states are showing US leadership on energy efficiency by adopting ambitious goals and energy-saving rules for utilities, buildings, appliances, and vehicles. Unfortunately, Utah is not among them.

Utah ranked 22nd in the 2019 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling two positions in the rankings from 2018. The state scored 19.5 points out of a possible 50, 1.5 points less than the previous year. Utah’s ranking peaked in 2010, ranking 12th in the nation for energy efficiency. The state has been steadily declining every year since.

“It wasn’t that long ago that Utah was gaining momentum in our energy efficiency practices and in the top fifteen states in the ACEEE scorecard. Unfortunately, we are seeing less and less emphasis by our utilities towards one of the most cost-effective, readily available resources we have, which is energy efficiency,” says Kevin Emerson, Utah Clean Energy’s director for energy efficiency programs.

This 13th annual report identifies the leader; the most-improved states, the states that lost ground, which includes Utah. The report highlights that while Utah’s legislature made progress by completing significant updates to its commercial building energy code, Utah’s utility-sector energy savings dipped in 2018 as Rocky Mountain Power scaled back its energy efficiency programs. Another setback noted in the report is that Utah has not adopted appliance standards beyond those required by the federal government, as numerous states recently did, including two of Utah’s southwest neighbors, Colorado and Nevada.

The ACEEE report was released just in time for the 4th annual National Energy Efficiency Day on Wednesday, October 2, 2019. Regional and national organizations, businesses, utilities, universities, and individuals are joining in promoting energy efficiency – the cheapest, quickest way to meet our energy needs, cut utility bills, and reduce pollution.

“October 2nd is National Energy Efficiency Day, which highlights the massive benefits we can all garner from energy efficiency, one of our cheapest resources to reduce pollution, save money and improve air quality, states Emerson. “Utah Clean Energy is working to make Utah a leader in energy efficiency, and I hope that next year’s scorecard shows Utah seizing our energy efficiency potential.”

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