



LED light bulbs conserve energy.



Air-source heat pumps reduce energy use for heating and cooling.

# Energy Efficiency on the Rise 2020

State policies and technological advancements are helping Americans become more energy efficient and reduce per capita energy consumption

*In 2018, energy efficiency programs saved enough electricity to power nearly 2.5 million homes. Improving efficiency makes it easier for America to transition to a future powered by 100% renewable energy.*

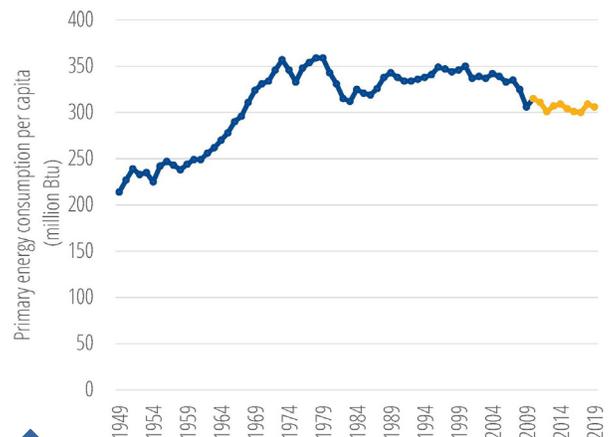
## America continues to become more energy efficient

- From 1950 to 2007, total energy usage in the U.S. nearly tripled. Since then energy usage across the U.S. has stayed roughly the same, despite a growing population and economy, thanks in part to energy efficiency.<sup>1</sup>
- Energy efficiency programs across the U.S. saved more than one and a half times as much energy in 2018 as they did in 2010.

## Technological advances reduce energy consumption

- New technologies that reduce energy consumption are becoming increasingly popular, such as LED lighting, which uses up to 80 percent less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs. The percentage of households with at least one energy-efficient light bulb increased from 58 percent to 86 percent between 2009 and 2015. By 2027, the Department of Energy estimates LEDs could save 348 terawatt-hours of electricity, which is equivalent to the annual electrical output of 44 large power plants.

1 For a full list of sources, visit <https://environmentamerica.org/feature/ame/renewables-rise-2020>.



U.S. per capita energy consumption peaked in the late 1970s and has fallen by 3 percent since 2010.



Home weatherization saves energy and money.

## Public policy has reduced energy consumption

- Cities and states have adopted strong building energy codes that ensure that new and renovated buildings meet minimum standards for efficiency. Adopting model energy codes across the country could save 12.82 quadrillion Btu of energy over 30 years, avoiding as many greenhouse gas emissions as are produced annually by 89 million homes.
- Federal vehicle fuel economy standards have led to more efficient vehicles. From 2010 to 2019, the average fuel economy of a new, light-duty vehicle improved by 13 percent, from 22.6 miles per gallon (mpg) to 25.5 mpg.

## The path to greater energy efficiency

There are many tools cities, states and the federal government can use to improve energy efficiency:

- Strong energy efficiency standards for buildings, vehicles, appliances and other consumer products.
- Energy efficiency resource standards that set targets for energy savings across an entire state.
- Energy efficiency and home weatherization programs – including programs funded on electricity bills or through revenues from carbon cap-and-trade – which can help homeowners and businesses to save energy.
- “Lead by example” energy efficiency efforts by local, state and federal governments.

Rank	State	Electricity saved as % of retail sales, 2010	Electricity saved as % of retail sales, 2018	Growth (% points)
1	Rhode Island	1.04	2.79	1.75
2	Massachusetts	1.10	2.82	1.72
3	Maryland	0.48	1.87	1.39
4	Illinois	0.46	1.66	1.20
5	District of Columbia	0.35	1.23	0.88
6	Michigan	0.72	1.46	0.74
7	Ohio	0.47	1.14	0.67
8	Arkansas	0.11	0.68	0.57
9	Pennsylvania	0.23	0.74	0.51
10 (tie)	Minnesota	0.59	1.07	0.48
10 (tie)	Indiana	0.07	0.55	0.48

*Top 10 most improved states for electricity efficiency from 2010-2018.*

## Most improved states for electricity efficiency

Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Maryland led the way as the most improved states for energy efficiency savings between 2010 and 2018, according to data from the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy. Vermont joined Massachusetts and Rhode Island as the three states with the highest percent savings out of total retail sales through energy efficiency programs in 2018.

## Explore clean energy growth online

Our report *Renewables on the Rise 2020* documents the rapid growth of clean energy technologies from energy efficiency to electric vehicles. For interactive charts and data mapping the rise of renewable energy in your state and around the country, visit <https://environmentamerica.org/feature/ame/renewables-rise-2020>.



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Find more information and the full report online:

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