

Iowa Energy Efficiency Fact Sheet



Iowa has been an Energy Efficiency Leader

- Iowa first adopted energy efficiency legislation in 1989.¹
- In 2016, recognizing the importance of energy efficiency, Iowa established *Energy Efficiency and Conservation* as one of the four main pillars of the IOWA ENERGY PLAN, December 2016.²
- Under Iowa's strong efficiency policies, Iowa Investor Owned Utilities (IOU's), MidAmerican Energy and Alliant Energy, invested in Energy Efficiency to save 2,508 GWh between 2014 and 2018 – the equivalent of a 300 MW fossil fuel fired power plant.³
- Between 2014 and 2018, these efficiency requirements led Iowa IOU's to invest \$804.8 million in energy efficiency programs to permanently reduce electric demand.⁴
- Legislation in 2018 significantly rolled back utility-led efficiency. It is time for Iowa to look at new opportunities for saving energy and cutting waste.
- **Iowa Can Still Cut Energy Waste Significantly** In 2001, a study conducted by S.W. Hadley identified the market potential for electrical energy savings of 2385 GWh by 2020.⁵
- The latest study conducted for the Iowa Utility Association in 2017, shows Iowa continues to have a significant potential to cost effectively reduce electricity consumption by 17% and natural gas consumption by 15% over a ten-year period.⁶

Iowa's Increasing Energy Efficiency through Recommended Actions

- Iowa should adopt, implement, and enforce the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code.
- Iowa should ensure that local jurisdictions are authorized to adopt standards more stringent than the State Energy Codes if they choose.
- Cities should adopt and fully enforce strong city building energy efficiency codes.
 - Establish city tax deductions or credits for the purchase of energy-efficient equipment.
 - Establish financing programs for energy efficiency.
 - Adopt energy efficiency benchmarking ordinances as well as energy audit and energy savings implementation measures.
- Renters should have access to information about energy costs before they sign a lease.
- State lawmakers should consider redirecting funds from utility energy efficiency programs to independent programming. This separation is wise because the utilities' are incentivized to sell more electricity, not reduce electricity use.
- Lawmakers could also consider incentivizing utilities to do energy efficiency by allowing them to earn a return on energy efficiency expenditures for providing successful programs.

¹ [ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES, 1989 Acts, Chapter 297, §13.](#)

² [Iowa Energy Plan, Efficiency Measures and Conservation, pp. 34-47.](#)

³ Annual Energy Efficiency Plan (EEP) filings with the Iowa Utilities Board.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ [The Potential for Energy Efficiency in the State of Iowa](#), S.W. Hadley, June 2001.

⁶ [Assessment of Iowa's Energy Efficiency Potential](#), Dunsky Energy Consulting, September 25, 2017.