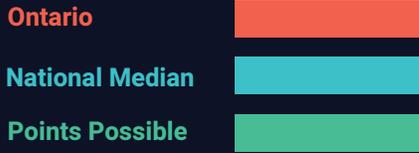


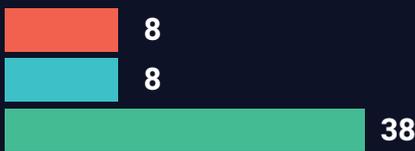


Ontario maintains its 4th place, scoring 39 points out of 100

POLICY AREA SCORES



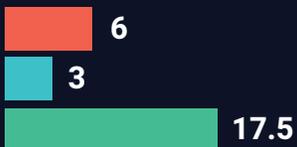
PROGRAMS



ENABLING POLICIES



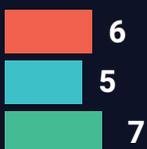
BUILDINGS



TRANSPORTATION



INDUSTRY



BRINGING THE COUNTRY DOWN

Political decisions in Ontario are constraining the province's considerable efficiency potential and dragging national energy savings down. Results of the premature cancellation and replacement of the Conservation First Framework are now evident - significantly scaled back spending, lower energy savings and less bill savings for Ontario residents, and national energy savings that are 38% below 2017 levels.

Little relief is on the horizon. The Independent Electricity System Operators (IESO) 2021-2024 budget was capped by Ministerial directive at levels roughly 40% below 2017 spending, and most residential programs remain eliminated. Natural gas demand-side management is stuck at business-as-usual levels with plans for only modest budget increases, despite the province's 2018 Environment Plan calling for a significant ramp up in natural gas savings.

Ontario maintains leadership in grid modernization and possesses significant human resources and program delivery capabilities. But, the province is starting to lose experts--there were 113 fewer Certified Energy Managers in 2020 compared to 2019.

STRENGTHS

Building energy reporting: Ontario remains the only province with province-wide, mandatory requirements for both energy performance benchmarking and disclosure for large buildings. However, a recent report from the province's Auditor General raised concerns about low compliance rates and questionable data accuracy.

Grid modernization: Ontario leads in several aspects of grid modernization, particularly non-wires alternatives planning and the leveraging of advanced metering infrastructure to support energy efficiency in the electricity system.

OPPORTUNITIES

Mandatory building performance standards: Ontario could build upon its framework for energy performance benchmarking and reporting to implement mandatory energy performance standards for large buildings, as seen in Washington state and New York City, plus move ahead with extending requirements for energy performance benchmarking to smaller facilities.

Non-pipe alternatives: Ontario policy statements emphasize integrating gas and electricity conservation strategies, yet a recent framework to avoid unnecessary natural gas infrastructure rejected the replacement of gas with efficient electric heating.



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