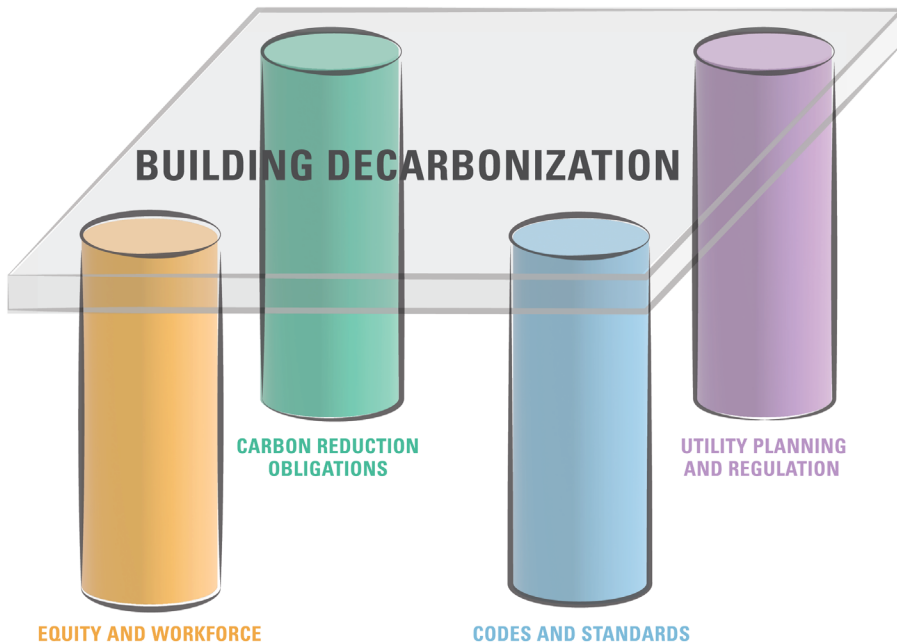


NEEP's 2024 Regional Roundup provides a snapshot of Delaware's current policies and progress towards greater energy efficiency and building decarbonization.

Policies and performance are organized across the four categories from NEEP's 2024 report, *Decarbonizing Buildings: How States can Set the Table for Success*. The categories, or "legs of the table," include Utility Planning and Regulation, Codes and Standards, Carbon Reduction Obligations, and Equity and Workforce.



- Delaware implements various energy efficiency programs through its sustainable energy utility, Energize Delaware.
- The state started Energize Delaware in 2007 to encourage the transition to efficient and sustainable energy.
- Energize Delaware operates home upgrade hubs for both single- and multi-family homes, a best practice in the equity sector, as well as multiple workforce development initiatives.
- The state also runs advisory committees on building electrification and energy equity.
- Finally, Delaware runs a successful pre-weatherization program using Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funding to prepare low-income homes for upgrades under the federal Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

UTILITY PLANNING AND REGULATION



UTILITY PLANNING AND REGULATION

Utility Planning and Regulation identifies mandates and frameworks to ensure that utility investment, rates, and programs align with building decarbonization goals. This section includes a *Climate-Forward Energy Efficiency By-the-Numbers* table, which shows performance data for 2021 and current program goals for the state, an overview of policies the state has adopted to implement climate-forward energy efficiency programs, and any planning and regulation the state is pursuing to decarbonize the grid.

Climate-Forward Energy Efficiency by the Numbers		
	Delaware	Regional Average
Savings as a Percent of Retail Sales in 2021*	Electric: 0.68% Gas: 0.32%	Electric: 1.13% Natural Gas: .43%
Low Income Spending Per Qualified Resident in 2021*	\$17.05	\$36.00
Current Portfolio Goals	Electricity Savings Goal [†] : 0.7% - 15% of 2007 sales Gas Savings Goal [†] : 0.5% - 10% of 2007 sales GHG Reduction Goal [‡] : 5% annually	

* Data from 2022 ACEEE State Scorecard.

† 26 Del. C. § 1500 et seq.

‡ 2023 DESEU Annual Report.

Climate-Forward Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Program Administrator	Delaware energy efficiency programs are a collaboration between the electric utilities, gas utilities, and the Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility (DESEU, also called Energize Delaware), a statewide energy efficiency utility. Programs are implemented in three-year cycles by both Energize Delaware and the utilities (Chesapeake Utilities and Delmarva Power). The Delaware utilities are currently operating energy efficiency programs on different time frames (Chesapeake 2023-2025; Delmarva 2024-2026).
Program Goals	Delaware does not have a mandatory energy efficiency resource standard (EERS). Annual goals are set by the DE Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC). Energize Delaware has not published its most recent annual goals, but below is a summary of goals in the 2023 Annual Report : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5% year-over-year GHG reductions • 2020 – 2022: 0.7% electric savings and 0.5% natural gas savings. • Per legislation, utilities must save 15% of 2007 electric sales and 10% of 2007 gas sales.
Benefit Cost Analysis	Total Resource Cost Test Non-energy impacts: avoided fuel costs, CO2, NOx, SO2 emissions. For low-income programs, the BCA includes weatherization-reduced arrears and participant health and safety benefits
Utility Performance Incentives	No current policies in place.

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Climate-Forward Energy Efficiency

Fuel Switching Policies	There are currently no explicit fuel-switching policies in Delaware’s enabling efficiency legislation (<i>the Delaware Energy Act and the EERS Act of 2009</i>). However, the Delaware Energy Act does indicate that “[t]he [energy efficiency] advisory council will assist affected energy providers in the development of energy efficiency, peak demand reduction, and emission-reducing fuel switching programs.”
Statewide Qualified Contractor Network	No current policies in place.
Centering Equity in Climate-Forward Efficiency Programs	Energize Delaware’s Pre-Weatherization program provides funding to repair structural issues. The program was created to serve customers that would be deferred from the weatherization assistance program (WAP). After the repairs are done, the home is readmitted into the state’s WAP. The Empowerment Grant program is designed to support new approaches in delivering benefits to low- and moderate-income families through providing grants to programs that seek to overcome barriers faced by underserved communities. The program focuses specifically on workforce development, research and development, and innovation.

UTILITY PLANNING AND REGULATION



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Long-Term Planning

Clean Heat and Building Decarbonization Programs	No current policies in place.
Long-Term Utility Planning	No current policies in place.

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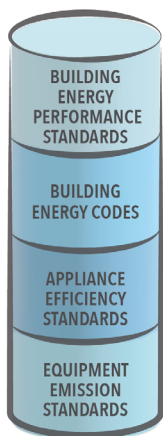
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CODES AND STANDARDS



CODES AND STANDARDS

Codes and standards establish a clear timetable for improving the energy performance of new and existing buildings, appliances, and equipment, spurring changes in technologies and building practices. The Regional Roundup provides additional information on policies in this area that operate at the city level to highlight how communities are taking the lead. Programs such as benchmarking and home energy labeling programs are also included, even when just voluntary, as they can be a precursor for BPS or mandatory home energy score programs.

Building Energy Codes	Delaware adopted the 2018 IECC. They are currently having stakeholder discussions through the DNREC Code Collaborative to decide if they want to move to 2021 or 2024 IECC. An Act to Amend Title 16 and Title 29 Of The Delaware Code Relating to Energy Conservation , was signed into law in the fall of 2024. It requires that counties and municipalities must meet the most recent building energy code adopted by the Delaware Energy Office for new buildings.
Stretch Energy Codes	An Act to Amend Title 16 and Title 29 Of The Delaware Code Relating to Energy Conservation , was signed into law in the fall of 2024. This Act specifically states that counties and municipalities in Delaware may adopt stretch energy codes.
Building Performance Standards	Delaware has minimum energy performance standards for state-housing-agency funded projects . However, Delaware does not have Building Performance Standards in place at the state or local level.
Benchmarking	Governor Markell’s Executive Order 18 requires all state-owned or leased buildings to benchmark their energy usage.
Home Energy Labeling	No current policies in place.
Appliance Efficiency Standards	No current policies in place.
Equipment Emission Standards	No current policies in place.



CARBON REDUCTION OBLIGATIONS



CARBON REDUCTION OBLIGATIONS

Carbon reduction obligations set performance requirements for obligated parties, such as energy providers, to reduce carbon emissions or install clean heating systems. This section also includes any policies that articulate statewide climate goals and involvement in a regional cap and invest program because both programs are aligned with the policies under carbon reduction obligations and can be a part of a future clean heat standard or statewide cap and invest.

Climate Goals	In 2023, Delaware passed the Climate Change Solutions Act (CCSA) and released its Climate Action Plan Implementation Report . The CCSA sets a statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 50% by 2030 and net zero by 2050 (2005 baseline).
Clean Heat Standard	No current policies in place.
Regional Cap-and-Invest	Delaware participates in RGGI , which caps electric utility carbon emissions. Delaware invests RGGI auction proceeds in energy efficiency (including the pre-weatherization program), direct bill assistance, GHG abatement, and renewable energy technologies.
State Cap-and-Invest	No current policies in place.
Centering Equity in Carbon Reduction Obligations	RGGI proceeds are invested in Delaware’s pre-weatherization program , which repairs homes so that they can participate in weatherization programs. Seventy-five percent of weatherization projects used this funding to participate in the weatherization program.



EQUITY AND WORKFORCE



EQUITY AND WORKFORCE

Equity and workforce investments address housing and workforce inequities by empowering historically marginalized communities and ensuring that the energy transition is just and inclusive. This section includes policies that prioritize community empowerment through defining environmental justice communities and/or convening community members to have meaningful input on climate and energy policies in the state. It also highlights any statewide goals or metrics that mandate programs to deliver a certain level of benefits to communities. Finally, it provides a snapshot of the inclusive workforce programs and policies within each state.

Statewide Equity Initiatives

Community Empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, Delaware passed HCR40, Creating The “Justice Forty Oversight Committee.” It established Delaware’s Justice Forty Oversight Committee to study environmental justice in the state and make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly • Delaware’s Community Involvement Advisory Council advises the secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and helps address adverse environmental impacts on communities. The council is established in state law (29 Del.C. § 8016A) as a permanent council serving in an advisory capacity to the secretary of the department. • DNREC has established the Environmental Justice Office, which promotes meaningful involvement and fair treatment throughout the achievement of DNREC’s mission • DNREC has a tool to map EJ communities – the EJ Area Viewer. This tool helps DNREC staff and other stakeholders identify communities disproportionately impacted by agency decisions and environmental issues.
Metrics and Goals	No current policies in place.
Home Upgrade Hubs	No current policies in place..

Inclusive Workforce Development

Inclusive Workforce Development	No current policies in place
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DELAWARE'S BUILDING DECARBONIZATION TABLE

UTILITY PLANNING AND REGULATION



Energize Delaware

EQUITY AND WORKFORCE



Community Involvement Advisory Group

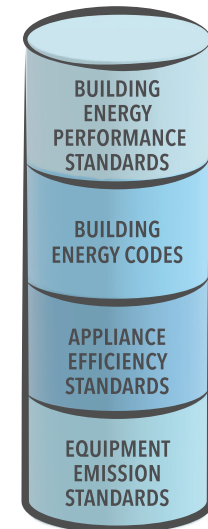
Pre-Weatherization Program

CARBON REDUCTION OBLIGATIONS



Climate Goals
RGGI

CODES AND STANDARDS



2018 IECC