



Water Efficiency

States Rated for Water-Efficient Policies

DRAFT REPORT COMPARES STATUS OF STATES ON PLUMBING FIXTURE STANDARDS, WATER RIGHTS, PLANNING, AND MORE



“We strongly recommend that national incentives be enacted for water-efficiency programs, and further that a national policy be instituted to allow energy-efficiency funding to be used for cold water conservation programs as well as hot water conservation programs because of the clear embedded energy benefits that this investment would provide.”

—Vision 2020 Chair
Mary Ann Dickinson of
the Alliance for Water
Efficiency before the
Senate Subcommittee
on Water and Power

The Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) and the Environmental Law Institute have released a draft of their state-by-state water conservation report.

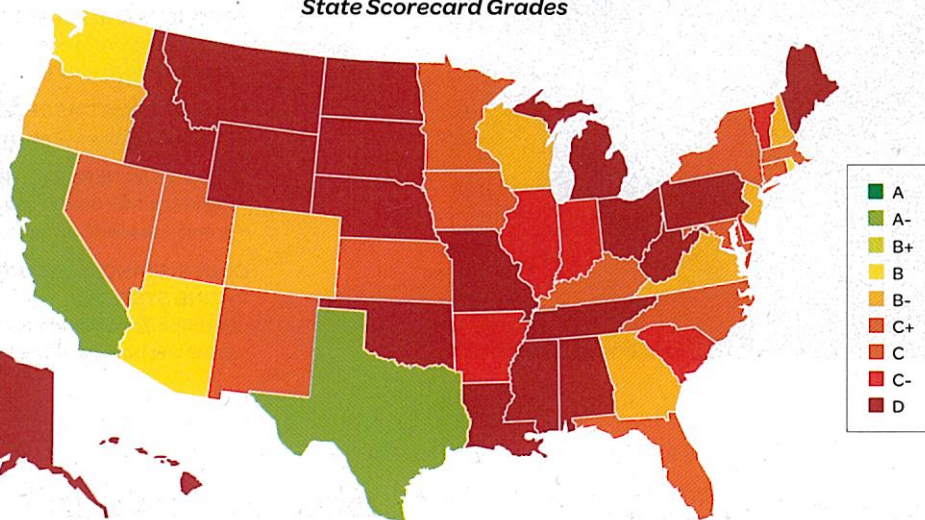
“The Water Efficiency and Conservation State Scorecard: An Assessment of Laws and Policies” surveys water efficiency and conservation policies and laws throughout the 50 states and covers a wide range of topics, including plumbing fixture standards, water conservation requirements related to water rights, water loss control rules, conservation planning and program implementation, volumetric billing for water, and funding sources for water-efficiency and conservation programs. Not surprising, the report found that many states have virtually

no relevant policies and regulations, and only a handful have a compendium of well-planned and strongly implemented practices.

Overall, the 50 states as a group averaged a C grade. In fact, only two states—Texas and California—earned an A-, while the rest of the country received 10 Bs, 19 Cs, and 19 Ds. Seven states received a mere 2 out of 40 possible points.

“We undertook this project to stoke the fire,” notes Mary Ann Dickinson, president and CEO of AWE and Vision 2020 chair. “A similar state scorecard report exists on energy efficiency, and it has resulted over the years in intense competition among the states for the highest scores. We were hoping for the same to happen with water-efficiency policies.” —Lisa Bonnema

Water-Efficiency and Conservation
State Scorecard Grades



The Vision 2020 research team is setting new metrics and milestones in 10 key areas of sustainability. Follow our unprecedented editorial research initiative all year long at www.ecohomemagazine.com/vision-2020.