



The mission of DRC is to promote sustainable use of natural resources, and family owned and operated agriculture, by building enduring, democratic local groups that empower people to influence decision-making processes that affect their lives and communities.

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 22, 2015

Mandy Kubik, DRC Communications Director: 701-799-3494 (cell) mandy@drcinfo.com

North Dakota Ranks at the Very Bottom of States' Energy Efficiency Efforts

BISMARCK, ND – The American Center for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) released its 2015 Efficiency Scorecard yesterday. For the third year in a row, North Dakota ranks # 51, below all other states in the nation and the District of Columbia, in energy efficiency programs. Available online at: <http://database.aceee.org/state/north-dakota>

The ACEEE Scorecard ranks states across six major policy areas—utility-sector energy efficiency, building energy codes, transportation efficiency, state-led initiatives, combined heat and power, and appliance and equipment standards. Unlike most other states, North Dakota has almost none of these policies or programs in place—utilities in the state do not treat efficiency as a system resource, and they report very low levels of electricity savings. ND has a voluntary building energy code with optional enforcement mechanisms, and no state-set appliance standards. The state has only one grant program available for efficiency investments and no research centers focused on efficiency goals or initiatives. It has one combined heat and power plant, but no policies seeking to spur investment in the technology, or to eliminate barriers to development.

“The ACEEE report underscores how these programs save consumers money, drive investment across many sectors of the economy, and create jobs. Other states have taken steps to make energy efficiency a priority. Now it is our turn,” says Kyra Hill, a policy analyst at Dakota Resource Council (DRC).

The report details how other states have passed legislation requiring utilities to save a certain percentage of energy every year through efficiency measures. Some states have adopted strict, mandatory building energy codes and improved code compliance. Growing towns and cities can integrate better land use and transportation planning into economic development plans. Some state regulators treat combined heat and power as an energy efficiency resource. Finally, the states at the top of the list invest in energy efficiency incentive programs, research, development and demonstration centers, and lead by example by incorporating energy efficiency into day-to-day government operations.

“Ultimately, the report highlights the enormous opportunity North Dakota has to make strides in energy savings”, said Hill. “While the report seems to show that North Dakota does not appear to be all that interested in efficiency, we know that’s not the case. North Dakotans do not like to waste natural resources. If Texas can make the list of “most improved” states, North Dakota can. We can and should create the opportunity for significant energy savings by investing in efficiency efforts. After all, the cheapest and cleanest energy is the energy we don’t use,” said Hill.

###