

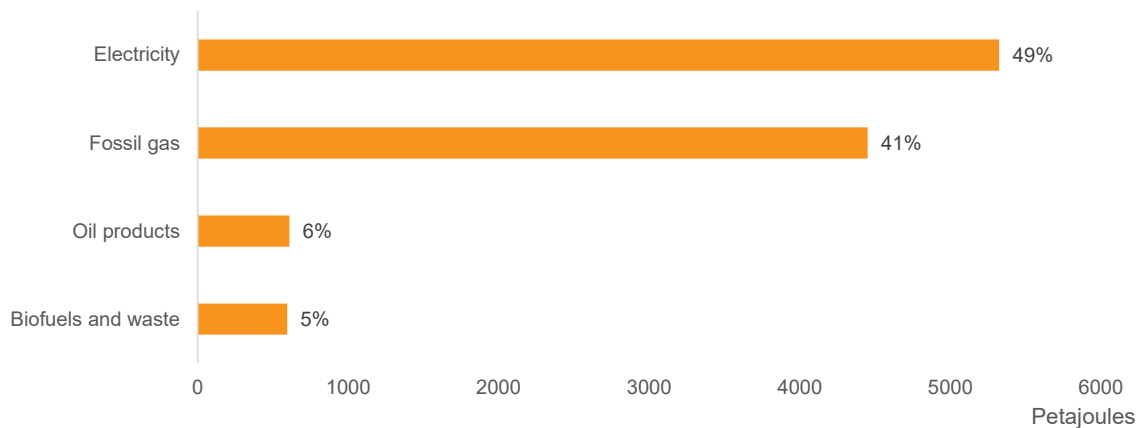


Clean Heat Policy Tracker 2025

United States



Residential total final consumption by source, United States, 2023



Source: IEA, 2025.

Does the country have a national heat plan? Is it statutory?

No, it does not. Individual states have various policy approaches to supporting heat pumps. These include energy efficiency programs, rate design, climate programs and direct support for heat pump adoption. For a discussion of some of these policies, please see, "[Accelerating heat pump adoption through the Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\) and complementary policies.](#)"

Is the progress of heating decarbonisation tracked and is the information publicly accessible?

At a federal level, no. [Efficiency Maine Trust](#) for example, a quasi-state agency that supports efficiency investments including the adoption of heat pumps, and it tracks the amount of financial support that it provides Maine homes. It has rebated more than 175,000 heat pumps for space heating. In 2023, more than 25,000 Maine homes received Efficiency Maine rebates for heat pumps or heat pump water heaters, equivalent to 4.5% of all Maine year-round residences in the state.



State efficiency programs typically keep track of retail utility company savings associated with efficiency investments.

Is the country a member of the Buildings Breakthrough?

Yes, via the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy. This may no longer be the case.

Is the heating sector governed by local authorities?

The heating sector is not governed locally in US states. Depending on the state, they may have adopted appliance standards or building code standards which could have similar effects.

The states of California, Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Oregon, New York, Utah, Vermont and Washington have various policies ranging from encouraging decarbonization to all electric building requirements. See "[Zero Emission Building Ordinances](#)".

Is heat planning carried out at a municipal, regional or national level?

State carbon programs typically incorporate building electrification or building decarbonization. For example, EPA has a [list of climate pollution reduction grants](#) that lists the number of states and other local jurisdictions that have developed carbon programs.

Is there a specific body that governs heat decarbonisation?

No, but certain states, Massachusetts for example, have multiple programs with different agencies and organizations designed to deliver greater heat pump adoption. "Mass Save" ([MassSave](#)) is the state of Massachusetts' cornerstone energy efficiency program that includes heat pump incentives. The state also has existing "[building energy codes](#)" "[solar and storage policies](#)" and a proposed "[clean heat standard](#)" requiring the progressive decarbonization of the heating sector.

The state is also investigating additional policy proposals such as "[building performance standards](#)" and "[appliance efficiency standards](#)".

Massachusetts is addressing affordability through the "[Massachusetts Community Climate Bank](#)" which offers lower cost capital and longer payment terms to support low- and moderate-income households — and "[tariff on-bill financing](#)" also known as "[inclusive utility investment](#)," a financing approach that puts the costs of an investment onto the meter and enables payback over time through customer bills.



Is heat decarbonisation part of the country's Nationally Determined Contribution?

No. But many state programs rely on the Paris agreement levels to establish their reduction baselines and goals.

Does the country have targets for heat pump deployment?

No. But there are some federally funded state programs that identify levels of deployment. For example, [the New England Heat Pump Accelerator](#), is a coalition of five New England states (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Rhode Island) promoting the regional adoption of heat pumps and heat pump water heaters in single-family and multifamily residential buildings.

The Accelerator, supported by federal funding will provide USD 450 million over five years. It is organized around three “hubs.”

The Market Hub, will support workforce training and develop mid-stream incentives that encourage distributor/contractor relationships and increase the stocking of heat pumps on shelves.

The Innovation Hub will support community quick start grants intended to overcome barriers unique to certain building types or existing HVAC systems, especially those prevalent in low- and moderate-income and environmental justice communities. The Innovation Hub will also support large-scale, innovative heat pump deployment projects in each state.

And the Resource Hub will collect, develop, and promote research and educational resources to advance the understanding by consumers, contractors, and stakeholders of how beneficial heat pumps can be.

Does the country have a clean heating obligation or standard?

No but some states have building performance standards which support clean heating. the [Institute for Market Transformation](#) has information on these.

Does the country have restrictions on installing fossil fuel heating appliances in new buildings?

See discussion of zero emissions standards above. A few states and local jurisdictions have adopted them.

Does the country have restrictions on installing fossil fuel heating appliances in existing buildings?

No, but see the zero emissions standards discussed above.



Has the country decided on a phase-out date for fossil fuels in heating?

No.

Has the country undertaken energy pricing reforms to support electrification?

Some states are looking at electricity pricing reforms to support heat pump adoption--especially for heating in the winter. For example, Massachusetts utility regulators recently approved a utility's plan to offer households with heat pumps a lower electric rate during the winter and to offer a further discounted rate for low-income households. This approach from Unital, which serves a small portion of the commonwealth, could be improved upon and replicated across the country as regulators consider similar proposals from other utilities. See [ACEEE's](#) blog.

Does the country place a carbon tax on fossil fuels for heating?

No.

If yes, please provide details. If not, is it under discussion?

Not applicable.

Does the country provide financial support for heat pumps?

See discussion of "Heat Pump Accelerator" above.

Does the country provide financial support for district heating?

No. Although district heating has been [adopted for decades](#) in different parts of the US and is being explored in different municipalities more recently.

Has the country made efforts to improve public understanding and support of clean heat systems?

Communications regarding benefits of clean heat systems is a part of most programs that are developed across the country.

Does the country support the development of clean heat skills?

Workforce development is a critical part of ensuring sustainable heat pump adoption in the US. Different models for workforce training are being successfully demonstrated by the states of Maine and Massachusetts, by institutions like International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology and Santa Fe Community College, and by companies like Mitsubishi. See discussion of Workforce development in [Malinowski, M., et al.](#)



Brief overview of the biggest challenges towards heat decarbonisation in the country.

The biggest challenge to heat pump adoption that Americans will face is likely to come from the politicization of clean energy, generally. Heat pump adoption around the United States is supported through various state and local programs that were materially augmented with federal funding, but which is going to be withdrawn. A successful approach to maintaining heat pump adoption is communicating a strategic position acknowledging the benefit of federal funding, but also emphasizing that state and local policies will be the sustaining force behind heat pump adoption.

The federal money of the past several years is still very significant. Various Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) programs have lowered the upfront costs of heat pumps. Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>)—over \$4 billion—will fund projects in 30 states, and it appears that those funds have been released. (See, for example, the discussion of the 5-state "heat pump accelerator" above) A fair number of approved plans include building electrification with a significant role for heat pump adoption. So, despite the likely federal funding forecast, the good news is that there has been a significant amount of funding made available to the states that will bring down the upfront costs of heat pumps.

Generally, changes to administrations that result in deviations from federal energy and environmental policy are not new phenomena, and heat pump advocates will need to pivot, adapting alternative policy frameworks and messages that still favor clean energy and installed measures like heat pumps without emphasizing climate change or carbon reductions.

The need to pivot here—essentially a communications strategy. In the coming years, a framework for discussing heat pumps will likely center more fully on ideas such as economic efficiency, state economic development, consumer and equity benefits like lower total cost of ownership, avoiding fossil fuel price volatility, and comfort and ease of operation.