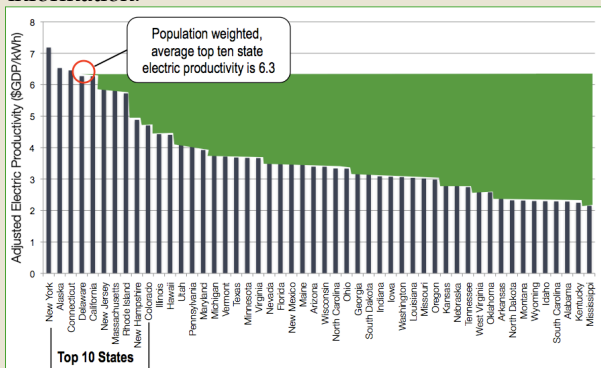


RMI's interactive map shows the state-by-state gap in electric productivity. Visit [our website](#) for more information.



The green area illustrates the massive gap between the highest and lowest productive states.

Closing the Efficiency Gap

For more than 30 years, the benefits of energy efficiency have been espoused; yet, as a nation, achievement rates fall far short of the economically feasible potential. In an effort to better understand the efficiency opportunity, RMI conducted analysis on electric productivity. We found that a total of 30 percent of current consumption could be saved by closing this electric productivity gap through energy efficiency.

While identifying the size of the electric productivity gap is important, it is far more interesting, and useful, to figure out how to close it. In the next phase of our research, RMI will analyze efficiency policies and business model best practices. Regardless of their level of efficiency experience, states can accelerate efficiency adoption by encouraging more investment in efficiency. We are seeking to identify not only what good efficiency policy can achieve, but also trends in the development of a successful policy. Investigating the cost structures, end use program designs, incentives and implementation plans will determine what makes certain utilities, states, NGOs and entrepreneurs achieve higher implementation levels than others.

Relevant Links:

<http://ert.rmi.org/cgu>



BACKGROUND

The electric power industry is one of the most resource intensive industries in the world. In the United States alone, it is responsible for emitting approximately one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in the country. Largely, these emissions come from the combustion of fossil fuels to create electricity. Any solution that seriously seeks to address concerns about climate change, energy security, and rising energy costs will need to make energy efficiency the first and foremost component in a portfolio of solutions.

THE PRODUCTIVITY GAP

In RMI's assessment of national electric productivity, we discovered large fluctuations from state to state. This disparity reveals that America's electricity consumption can be significantly reduced without negatively affecting our economy.

For instance, the electric productivity of top performing states, such as New York, Connecticut and California, can serve as examples of how to overcome barriers to efficiency practices, provide incentives to electric utilities, and accelerate the adoption of existing efficiency technologies. Lower performing states, like Kentucky and Mississippi, have a huge opportunity to build on the success of higher performing states by closing their electric productivity gap using known and tested technology and policy.

CLOSING THE GAP

RMI estimates that if the rest of the country achieved the normalized electric productivity of the top performing states, the U.S. would save a total of ~1.2 million gigawatt-hours. This is the equivalent of 30 percent of our annual electricity use; or ~60 percent of our nation's coal fired electric power. Additionally, in 2020, if the United States can, on average, achieve the electric productivity of the top performing states today, we can anticipate a 34 percent reduction in projected electricity demand against business as usual.

The ultimate outcome of the CEG initiative is to raise the bar on the minimum amount of efficiency being implemented in each state. In order to accomplish this, RMI is working to identify best practices in efficiency policy and business models. After distilling this information, RMI will begin to develop implementation plans, and seek states to partner with to test the ideas in a real world application.