

Sustainability Office  
Troy Moon  
Sustainability Director



---

**To:** Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

**From:** Troy Moon, City of Portland Director of Sustainability

**Date:** March 30, 2023

**Regarding:** LD 1101

**Testimony in Support of LD 1101,  
"An Act to Reduce energy costs by enacting a Home Energy Scoring System"**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology:

I write to you in support of LD 1101, "An Act to Reduce Energy Costs by Enacting a Home Energy Scoring System." This would be an important tool to help the City of Portland achieve the goals described in our climate action plan, *One Climate Future*, for several important reasons.

First, a Home Energy Scoring System may help reduce emissions from residential buildings by providing residents with a convenient opportunity to learn how they use energy in their homes, as well as information and resources to make improvements that reduce emissions.

Second, a Home Energy Scoring System may be particularly helpful to low-income Maine residents, who spent an estimated 20% of their incomes on energy (according to a 2019 report by Synapse Energy Economics). The first step in reducing this energy burden is to empower residents with information so that they can make informed decisions to lower costs, as well as potentially access resources to help fund improvements.

Third, a Home Energy Scoring System is a useful consumer protection tool. As residents are confronted with rising housing costs, full transparency related to the costs of buying and maintaining a home is essential. Home energy scores provide prospective home buyers with important information about how much it costs to heat and cool a home they are looking at.

Having access to this information helps the buyer understand the true cost of ownership, and motivates the seller to make improvements.

The City of Portland currently has an energy benchmarking ordinance, which requires the owners of buildings greater than 20,000 square feet to analyze and report on their energy use annually. We plan to use this data to help commercial properties find ways to reduce their energy consumption, benefitting both property owners and the general public. A statewide home energy scoring program would provide a similar tool for residential properties.

Thank you for your consideration.