



The bars show ACEEE scores for energy efficiency. The pie chart shows 2013 end-use energy shares of buildings, industry, transportation, and other sectors.

Placing 21st, South Africa scored 33 points and ranked above Brazil and Saudi Arabia.

South Africa scored the full 8 points in building energy codes for new residential and nonresidential buildings. The country also scored relatively well on energy intensity in residential and nonresidential buildings. In the transportation sector South Africa ranked seventh for on-road fuel economy of light-duty vehicles in 2012. The country was among the highest scorers for VMT by passenger cars, with 719 VMT per capita, which is lower than in most other countries. South Africa also earned the full score for investment in rail versus road transport. Information was not available for energy intensity of freight transportation.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

There is huge potential for energy savings in the industrial sector, a category in which South Africa scored just 1 point. The energy intensity of South Africa's industry is the highest of all countries evaluated in this report. After rolling blackouts in 2008 the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) introduced the Industrial Energy Efficiency (IEE) Project in South Africa. As a result South Africa adopted the ISO 50001 as its national standard and currently also has an accreditation program for EnMS in industrial facilities. There is also a national tax incentive called Section 12L for energy efficiency savings. However there is no national policy that refers to the EnMS. South Africa would benefit greatly by overhauling its approach toward energy efficiency in industry. Exemplary policies include government-led programs for voluntary agreements with manufacturers to reduce energy use; mandating energy audits, EnMS, and energy managers in industries; performance standards for motors and pumps; and increasing investment in manufacturing R&D.

In the buildings sector South Africa could build on its existing policies by adopting performance standards and categorical labels for various appliances. Such standards help transform the market by preventing or discouraging less efficient appliances from entering the market. The country could also adopt labeling and disclosure practices for buildings. South Africa would also benefit from applying its building energy codes to existing buildings and retrofits.

Overall South Africa needs better leadership by the national government in focusing on energy efficiency across all economic sectors. The government must follow through and build on the energy efficiency potential identified in the INDC plan submitted to the UNFCCC in 2015.