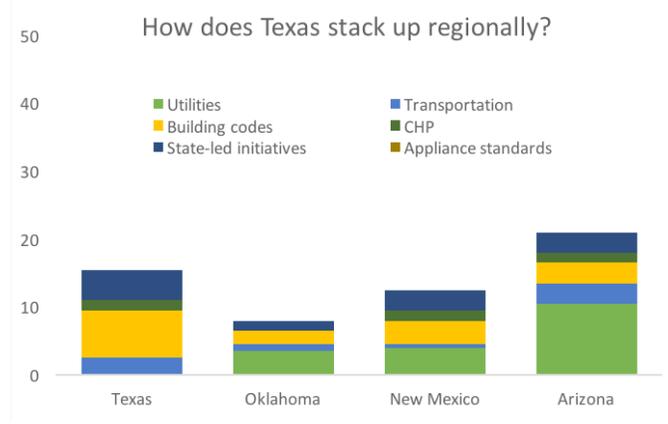
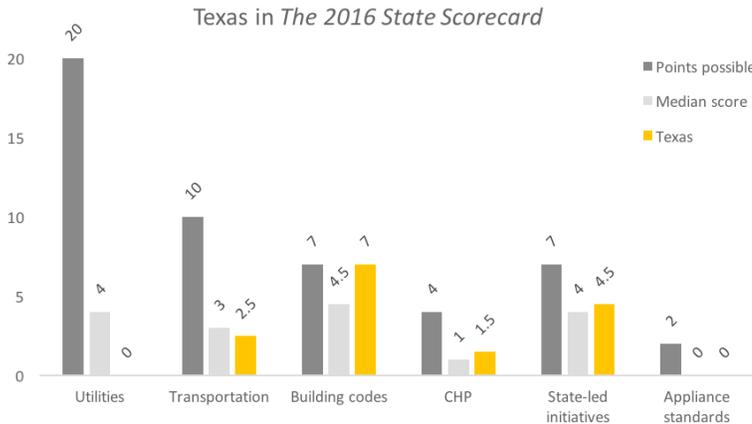


Texas

27



Texas tied for 27th in the 2016 *State Scorecard*, falling one spot compared to its 2015 ranking. The state scored 15.5 points out of a possible 50, a half-point less than it earned last year.



UTILITIES

Texas scored 0 points out of 20 for its utility policies and programs. Despite being the first state to implement an energy efficiency resource standard (EERS), the targets are currently extremely low. Therefore, Texas realizes low levels of electrical savings compared to the national average. Utilities do not focus on natural gas efficiency. Electric utilities may earn performance incentives for achieving energy savings goals, but the state also allows large customers to opt out of efficiency programs, significantly minimizing the achievable savings.



STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

Texas scored 4.5 out of 7 points for state-led energy efficiency initiatives. The state runs Texas LoanSTAR, a major loan program for energy efficiency investments, and has an active commercial PACE program. Texas leads by example by requiring energy-efficient public buildings and fleets, benchmarking state buildings, and promoting the use of energy savings performance contracts. Building energy use transparency rules have not been developed for the commercial or residential sector. Two major research centers in Texas are focused on energy efficiency.



TRANSPORTATION

Texas earned 2.5 points out of a possible 10 points for transportation policies. The state has issued legislation supporting complete streets and has seen a reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita in recent years. In addition, there are a significant number of electric vehicle registrations throughout the state.



APPLIANCE STANDARDS

Texas earned 0 out of 2 possible points for appliance standards. While it is one of the few states to have standards on plumbing products, no analysis has been completed that estimates energy savings.



BUILDING ENERGY CODES

Texas earned 7 points out of 7 for its building energy code stringency and compliance efforts. In 2016, Texas began requiring that single-family residential homes comply with the 2015 IRC and commercial and multifamily buildings with the 2015 IECC. The state is working with the US Department of Energy to conduct a baseline compliance study. Texas convenes a stakeholder advisory group, has a strategic compliance plan in place, and offers training and outreach.



HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Although it was the first state to adopt an EERS, Texas has some of the lowest efficiency targets in the country. It has also lost a large portion of its potential for energy savings by allowing large customers to opt out of efficiency programs. To encourage utilities to implement a broader portfolio of energy efficiency programs, the state could strengthen its EERS by increasing savings targets—with a focus on overall sales rather than peak savings—and couple it with performance incentives to align the utility business model with efficiency.



COMBINED HEAT & POWER

Texas scored 1.5 out of 4 points for its combined heat and power policies. The state has established an interconnection standard, although it does not apply to all system sizes. Texas requires that critical facilities conduct a feasibility study for CHP prior to construction. Four new CHP installations were completed in 2015.