

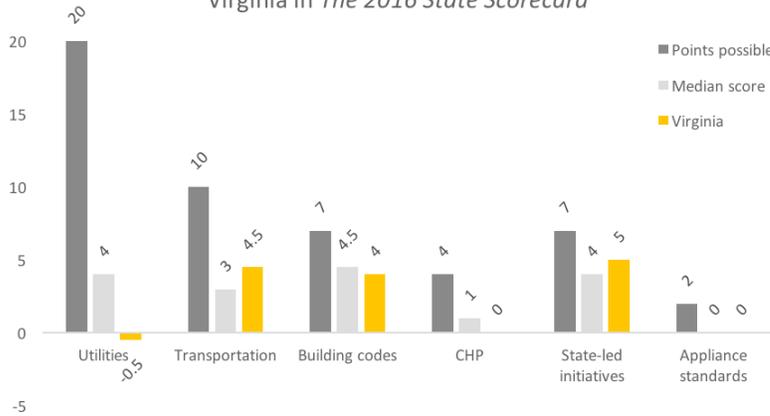
Virginia

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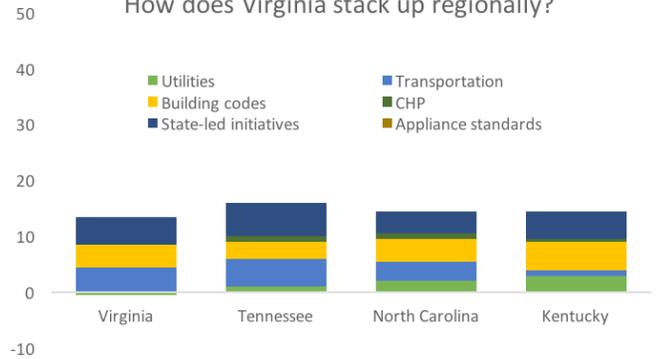


Virginia tied for 33rd in the 2016 *State Scorecard*, falling two places from the position it held in 2015. The state scored 13 points out of a possible 50, the same as last year.

Virginia in *The 2016 State Scorecard*



How does Virginia stack up regionally?



UTILITIES

Virginia lost 0.5 of a point for its utility policies and programs. Utilities reported very small budgets for electricity and natural gas efficiency programs, and energy savings were some of the lowest in the country. Certain large customers are exempt from paying for the costs of new efficiency programs. Natural gas utilities may decouple profits from sales, but electric utilities may not.



STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

Virginia scored 5 out of 7 points for state-led energy efficiency initiatives. The state offers a variety of energy efficiency incentives. The state government leads by example by requiring public buildings to benchmark energy data and offering an energy savings performance contracting program. Two major research centers in Virginia are focused on energy efficiency.



TRANSPORTATION

Virginia earned 4.5 points out of a possible 10 points for transportation policies. The state devotes significant funding to transportation initiatives, integrates transportation and land use planning, and has passed complete streets legislation. Virginia has seen a reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita in recent years.



APPLIANCE STANDARDS

Virginia has not set appliance standards beyond those required by the federal government.



LOOKING AHEAD

Virginia leadership has shown a commitment to energy efficiency through the advancement of state-led initiatives. However, the state has significant room to expand and strengthen efficiency programs and policies in multiple sectors. For example, to guarantee more energy savings for businesses and residents, the state could make its 10% electricity savings target mandatory and offer performance incentives to utilities achieving higher levels of electricity and natural gas savings. Utilities could implement more comprehensive efficiency measures and design programs that better meet the needs of large customers. Virginia could also adopt and enforce the full 2015 IECC for residential and commercial buildings. A focus on policies that incentivize CHP deployment could deepen energy savings, reduce bills for homes and businesses, and support local economic development.



BUILDING ENERGY CODES

Virginia earned 4 points out of 7 for its building energy code stringency and compliance efforts. In July 2014, the uniform state building code was updated to require that residential and commercial construction comply with the 2012 IRC and the 2012 IECC, respectively. However, technical amendments to the residential code make its energy savings roughly equivalent to the 2009 IECC. Virginia has completed a baseline compliance study, regularly convenes building code stakeholders, and offers code trainings.



COMBINED HEAT & POWER

Virginia scored 0 out of 4 points for its combined heat and power policies. The state has not pursued policies to encourage the deployment of CHP. No new CHP installations came online in 2015.