



North Carolina tied for 31st in *The 2017 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, falling one position compared to 2016. The state earned 14.5 points out of a possible 50, the same score it earned last year. The state's levels of electricity savings remain around the national median. North Carolina's renewable portfolio standard includes efficiency as an eligible measure, but does not create clear guidance for cost-effective energy efficiency investments. The state could create a separate, long-term standard for efficiency to more directly incentivize investments in electricity and natural gas efficiency. Utilities in the state could also work with large customers to design programs that encourage industrial customers to continue participation, in spite of their option to opt out. To further deepen energy and cost savings for consumers, the state could expand energy efficiency financing options and update its residential and commercial building energy codes.

UTILITIES (2.5 OUT OF 20)

Utilities run electricity efficiency programs and some limited natural gas programs. The state has a renewable portfolio standard that allows limited levels of energy efficiency; however the ability of industrial customers to opt out of energy efficiency programs limits achievable savings. North Carolina has approved performance incentives and lost revenue adjustment mechanisms for specific utilities.

TRANSPORTATION (3 OUT OF 10)

The state has complete streets legislation, a dedicated revenue stream for transit investments, and integrates transportation and land use planning. North Carolina has also seen a reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita in recent years.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (4 OUT OF 8)

Residential and commercial buildings must comply with standards equivalent to the 2009 IECC with strengthening amendments. The state conducts code training and outreach and has also partnered with DOE to undertake a residential energy code field study.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (1 OUT OF 4)

The state offers incentives for cost-effective and efficient CHP projects, has an interconnection standard that applies to CHP, and includes CHP as an eligible resource within its renewable portfolio standard. One new CHP installation was completed in 2016.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (4 OUT OF 6)

The state offers two financial incentive programs for energy efficiency investments. The state government leads by example by requiring efficient buildings and fleets, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts. Several research centers within the state focus on energy efficiency.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OUT OF 2)

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