

26 Texas

Texas tied for 26th in the *2017 State Scorecard*, rising one spot compared to 2016. The state scored 16.5 points out of a possible 50, 1 point more than it earned last year. In May 2017 the state legislature restored a \$2,500 rebate for the purchase of electric vehicles. Although it was the first state to adopt an EERS, Texas has some of the lowest efficiency targets in the country. It also has 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.

UTILITIES (1 OUT OF 20)

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.

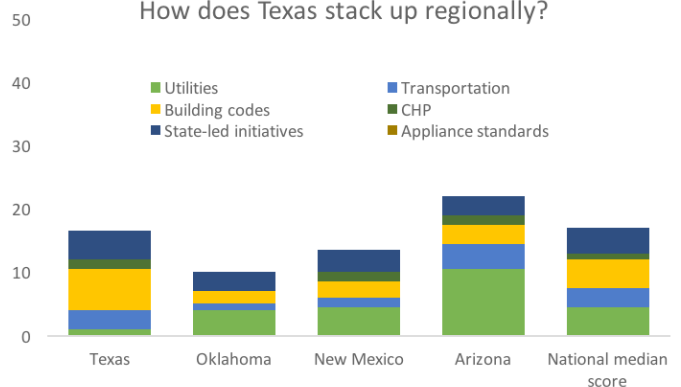
TRANSPORTATION (3 OUT OF 10)

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. In May 2017, the state legislature restored a previously discontinued electric rebate program for electric vehicles under the Texas Emissions Reduction Program.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (6.5 OUT OF 8)

In 2016, Texas began requiring single-family residential homes to comply with the 2015 IRC and commercial and multifamily

How does Texas stack up regionally?



buildings to comply 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.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (1.5 OUT OF 4)

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 2016.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (4.5 OUT OF 6)

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. Two major research centers in Texas are focused on energy efficiency.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OUT OF 2)

While it is one of the few states to have standards on plumbing products, no analysis that estimates energy savings has been completed.

CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Since 2008, the Conroe Independent School District near Houston has partnered with Entergy Texas to implement many energy efficiency projects at school facilities. The district has upgraded its HVAC systems, boilers, and chillers; replaced interior and exterior lights with LEDs; and installed other energy-efficient equipment. The school district has leveraged \$567,290 in financial incentives from Entergy and saved 10,365,847 kWh since 2008; annually, it saves \$932,926. These energy savings avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking 1,539 cars off the road.