Coming in 7th, Spain earned a score of 62.

Spain tied with Canada for fifth in the buildings category. The country has strong mandatory building codes for both residential and commercial buildings, covering a broad range of technical elements. Furthermore Spain has renovation requirements in place for all buildings as part of its construction code. Spain is also one of just a handful of countries with a mandatory program for building labeling and building energy disclosure.

Spain ranked sixth in the national efforts category. Spain’s mandatory energy savings goal under the EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) targets energy savings of 20% by 2020. The Institute for the Diversification and Saving of Energy (IDEA), the national agency in charge of promoting energy efficiency, is implementing this national objective with a focus on improving final energy intensity by 2% each year from 2010 to 2020. Through this objective and its supporting policies Spain has experienced success in its national efforts.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

There is plenty of room for improvement in the industrial sector in Spain. Spain generates very little electricity from CHP and has no real CHP targets or incentives. The 2012–13 electricity market reform affected the CHP sector very negatively. CHP electricity generation at high-efficiency plants qualified for feed-in tariffs and premiums before the reform, but these were abolished in 2013.

Spain also has room for improvement in transportation. It scored well compared to other countries analyzed in this Scorecard, but could improve its energy intensity of freight transport and implement policies to spur greater use of public transportation. Spain can look to policies in other European countries such as Italy and Germany that have helped to reduce VMT, increase average fuel economy, and encourage the use of public transportation.