

43 Alabama

Alabama ranked 43rd in *The 2017 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, falling four positions in the rankings compared to 2016. The state earned 9 points out of a possible 50, 2 less than last year. Alabama has been actively engaged in efforts to strengthen energy efficiency in buildings through recent adoption of updates to building energy code and ongoing support of codes training and compliance assessments. However opportunities still exist in all other policy categories. Though the state government leads by example through efficiency criteria for state buildings and vehicle fleets, it has not worked to implement policies that encourage efficiency across the economy. Elsewhere in the Southeast, states are making significant advances in efficiency by encouraging utility-sector energy efficiency through quick-start efficiency programs. Efforts such as these, along with setting long-term savings targets and pursuing policies encouraging efficiency in vehicles and transportation systems, could help the state realize significant savings in the future.

UTILITIES (0 OUT OF 20)

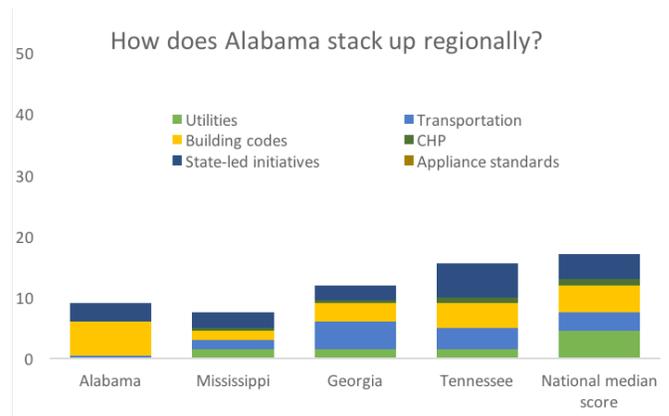
Alabama reports low levels of electricity savings and does not run natural gas efficiency programs. Budgets for electricity programs were some of the lowest in the country, which means customers generally do not have access to a wide range of energy efficiency services from their utilities. Opportunities are available for the state to pursue new utility business models that encourage customer energy efficiency.

TRANSPORTATION (0.5 OUT OF 10)

Although Alabama has a comprehensive freight plan in place, opportunities remain to improve energy efficiency through specific performance measures and targets such as emissions or gallons per ton-mile of freight moved. With few focused policy efforts to promote efficient transportation systems, there is significant room for growth.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (5.5 OUT OF 8)

The 2015 Alabama Residential Energy Code, based on the 2015 IECC with state-specific amendments, took effect in 2016, along



with an updated commercial buildings code based on ASHRAE 90.1-2013. Local jurisdictions may adopt more stringent codes. Alabama recently worked with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to publish a residential energy code field study in 2017, and state agencies provide ongoing training and outreach on code compliance.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (0 OUT OF 4)

Alabama has limited policies to encourage CHP deployment. Two new installations were completed in 2016.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (3 OUT OF 6)

The state funds a revolving loan program called AlabamaSaves in addition to running the WISE Home Energy Program, which offers rebates and loans to consumers. Alabama government also leads by example, encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts and requiring energy-efficient fleets and buildings. Research on efficient vehicles is conducted at the University of Alabama's Center for Advanced Vehicle Technologies.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OUT OF 2)

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

BIRMINGHAM-SHUTTLESWORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport recently modernized and expanded its terminal area and achieved LEED Gold Certification for New Construction by implementing significant energy efficiency improvements. The airport improved its insulation; optimized building performance through automation; and installed high-efficiency elevators and escalators, an HVAC system, and lighting with daylight and occupancy sensors. From these measures and others, the airport has seen its utility bills decrease by an average of more than \$27,000 each month while also expanding the terminal by 185,000 square feet. Partnering with Alabama Power and the airlines, the airport also installed all-electric ground service equipment and chargers. Toni Herrera-Bast, the airport's public relations and marketing manager, said that LEED certification was a goal from the beginning of the project, was important to airport leadership, and has involved considerable collaboration with both the airlines and the utility to achieve.