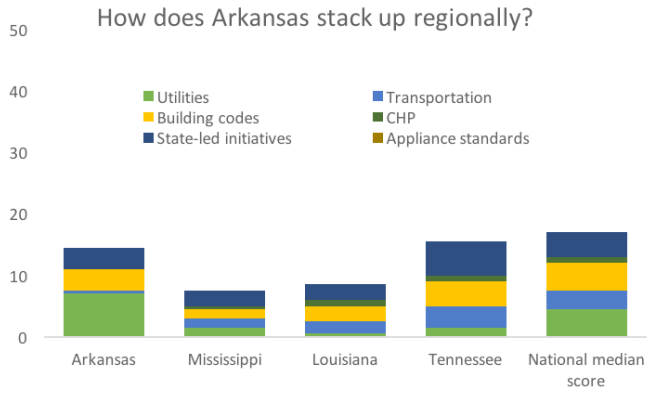
31 Arkansas

Arkansas tied for 31st in *The 2017 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, falling four places from its 2016 ranking. Arkansas scored 14.5 points out of a possible 50, 1 point less than it earned last year. The state continues to rank among the most energy-efficient states in the Southeast and is one of the few states in the region to set long-term efficiency targets for utilities. As its utility programs mature, Arkansas continues to achieve increasingly higher levels of savings in its homes and businesses. However legislation allowing large industrial customers and state-supported higher education institutions to opt-out of efficiency programs has reduced available savings benefits. Opportunities remain for the state to improve, including strengthening building codes, pursuing more efficient transportation policies, and encouraging CHP as a resource.



UTILITIES (7 OUT OF 20)

Arkansas is one of the only states in the Southeast to have approved an energy efficiency resource standard, setting long-term savings targets and performance incentives which are awarded annually to utilities for meeting efficiency goals. Electricity savings continue to increase year after year. Utilities implement both electric and natural gas efficiency programs, although large customers are able to opt out of efficiency offerings.

TRANSPORTATION (0.5 OUT OF 10)

Arkansas has a dedicated transit revenue stream in place, but has not otherwise pursued policies to encourage efficient transportation systems. There is still significant opportunity for improvement in this policy area.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (3.5 OUT OF 8)

The 2014 Arkansas Energy Code for New Building Construction, also known as the 2014 Arkansas Energy Code, is based on the 2009 IECC with amendments and is mandatory for both commercial and residential new construction. Newly constructed or remodeled public buildings must comply with ASHRAE 90.1-2007. The state has completed several code compliance activities, most recently through a collaboration with the US Department of Energy on a Residential Energy Code Field Study to measure code compliance and improve training, published in 2017.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (0 OUT OF 4)

The state does not have policies in place to encourage cost-effective and efficient CHP deployment.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (3.5 OUT OF 6)

The state offers loans for energy-related cost reduction retrofits and green energy projects and has also enabled Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. The Arkansas government also leads by example, benchmarking energy usage in state buildings and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. There are no energy efficiency-focused research and development programs funded by the state.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OUT OF 2)

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

SOUTHWEST STEEL PROCESSING

Arkansas-based Southwest Steel Processing (SSP) implemented energy efficiency upgrades at its Newport facility. The manufacturer saves nearly 890,000 kWh per year and has received a check for more than $100,000 from Entergy Arkansas by leveraging Entergy's financial incentives. SSP president Ken Copeland said, "We employ about 120, and we have been actively engaged in the community for 17 years. The money we're saving on energy can be re-invested in our business, boosting the economy of this area. On top of that, these changes are good for the environment, which is very important to Southwest Steel Processing and our customers." By reducing energy use, the company has reduced its annual carbon footprint by 613 tons of carbon dioxide, which is equivalent to the emissions from 129 cars.