

29 Tennessee

Tennessee tied for 29th in the *2017 State Scorecard*, falling four places from the position it held in 2016. The state earned 15.5 points out of a possible 50, a half-point decrease from last year. Tennessee has shown leadership on energy efficiency in recent years through its EmPower TN initiative to reduce consumption across state-owned and managed facilities. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and its distribution utilities also provide efficiency services through EnergyRight Solutions programs, although savings and investment levels remain below the national average. Tennessee has opportunities to continue to expand its efforts through policies that enable the deployment of CHP and that further encourage compliance with building codes.

UTILITIES (1.5 OUT OF 20)

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) runs electricity efficiency programs, but investments and savings remain below the national average. TVA incorporates energy efficiency into its integrated resource planning process. No utilities report budgets or savings for natural gas efficiency programs. Performance incentives are not available to utilities.

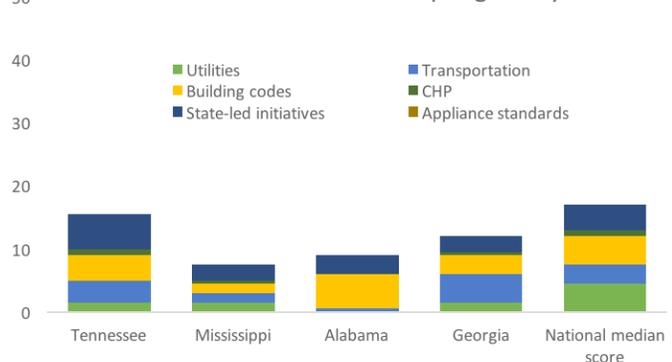
TRANSPORTATION (3.5 OUT OF 10)

The state has seen a reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita in recent years, as well as a sizeable increase in the number of electric vehicles registered. Tennessee allows regional authorities to set up dedicated funding streams for mass transit and its MultiModal Access Grant fosters projects that address needs of transit users, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The state has passed complete street legislation but additional opportunities remain, such as establishing incentives for high efficiency vehicles and setting goals for vehicle miles traveled.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (4 OUT OF 8)

Since Tennessee is a home rule state, codes are adopted and enforced at the jurisdictional level. The state recently adopted

How does Tennessee stack up regionally?



the 2012 IECC for commercial and state-owned buildings and has initiated the process of adopting the 2009 IECC for residential construction. Tennessee is conducting a compliance study and has hosted code training sessions.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (1 OUT OF 4)

The state offers financing assistance for some CHP projects, but does not otherwise have policies in place that encourage CHP deployment. One new CHP system was installed in 2016.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (5.5 OUT OF 6)

The state offers a variety of financial incentives for energy efficiency in schools, public buildings, low-income households, and businesses. The state government leads by example by benchmarking energy use, requiring energy-efficient fleets, and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. Tennessee has several major research centers focused on energy efficiency.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OUT OF 2)

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

PATHWAY LENDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOAN PROGRAM

The State of Tennessee, Tennessee Valley Authority, and Pathway Lending established the Pathway Lending Energy Efficiency Loan Program (EELP)—a low-interest revolving loan fund that assists businesses with implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements, which reduce operating costs, improve productivity, and make Tennessee businesses more competitive. One participant in this program, Westmoreland's McGlothlin Poultry Farms, sought energy and water efficiency improvements in 2012 after seeing the benefits of these measures at competing farms. McGlothlin's two farms—AA's Farm and Little Bill Farm—were upgraded with insulated tunnel doors, recirculating cool cell systems, attic vents, circulation fans, LED lights, and radiant heaters. The farms have seen approximately 405,715 kWh in annual savings. Owner Heather McGlothlin said of EELP, "We were provided with attractive financing that made equipment upgrades easier. The difference in what we have now compared to what we had is like night and day—we're better managing our costs and strengthening our business."