

29 Virginia

Virginia tied for 29th in the *2017 State Scorecard*, rising four places from the position it held in 2016 and becoming one of this year's most improved states. The state scored 15.5 points out of a possible 50, 2.5 points more than last year. Virginia has shown a commitment to saving energy through an array of state-led initiatives. However the state has significant room to strengthen efficiency programs and policies in the utility sector. To guarantee energy and cost savings for businesses and residents, the state could make its 10% electricity savings target mandatory and offer performance incentives to utilities achieving higher levels of electricity and natural gas savings. Virginia could also work to streamline the process by which utilities evaluate, measure, and verify energy savings which may help utilities to develop efficiency programs with more comprehensive measures. To keep costs low for all Virginia consumers, utilities could design programs that better meet the needs of large customers. Beyond the utility sector, the state could incentivize CHP deployment to deepen energy savings, reduce bills for homes and businesses, and support local economic development.

UTILITIES (0 OUT OF 20)

Utilities reported very small budgets for electricity and natural gas efficiency programs, and energy savings were among the lowest in the country. Natural gas utilities may decouple profits from sales, but electric utilities may not. The state exempts certain large customers from paying new efficiency programs.

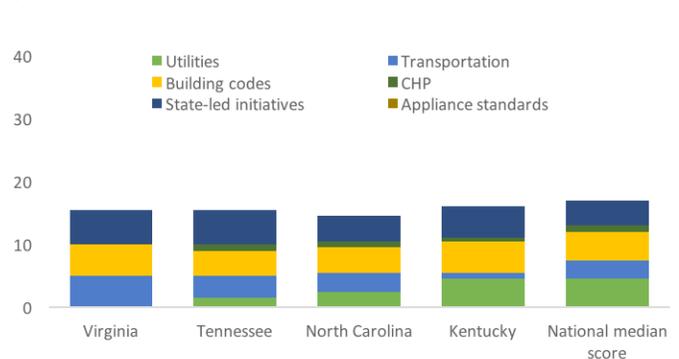
TRANSPORTATION (5 OUT OF 10)

The state devotes significant funding to transportation initiatives, integrates transportation and land use planning, and has passed complete streets legislation. Virginia has seen a reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita in recent years.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (5 OUT OF 10)

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development is in the process of adopting the 2015 IECC for

How does Virginia stack up regionally?



residential and commercial buildings; however, technical amendments render the residential code roughly equivalent to the 2012 IECC. Virginia has completed a baseline compliance study, regularly convenes building code stakeholders, and offers code trainings.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (0 OUT OF 4)

The state has not pursued policies to encourage the deployment of CHP. No new CHP installations came online in 2016.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (5.5 OUT OF 6)

The state offers a variety of consumer incentives for energy efficiency and leads by example by requiring energy-efficient public buildings, benchmarking energy use, and offering an energy savings performance contracting program. Two major research centers in Virginia conduct energy efficiency research.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OUT OF 2)

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

WARMWISE WEB-BASED HOME AUDIT PROGRAM

In 2016, Columbia Gas of Virginia won the Virginia Energy Efficiency Leadership Award in the residential category for its WarmWise Web-Based Home Audit Program. This program allows homeowners to do their own energy audit using an online program. Eligible homeowners can receive up to two energy efficiency kits, which include energy efficiency products such as door sweeps, weather stripping, high-efficient showerheads, and faucet aerators. The Greater Richmond ARC, an organization that provides job opportunities for people with developmental disabilities, helps prepare and distribute these kits, which provides ARC employees with on-the-job training in transferrable skills.