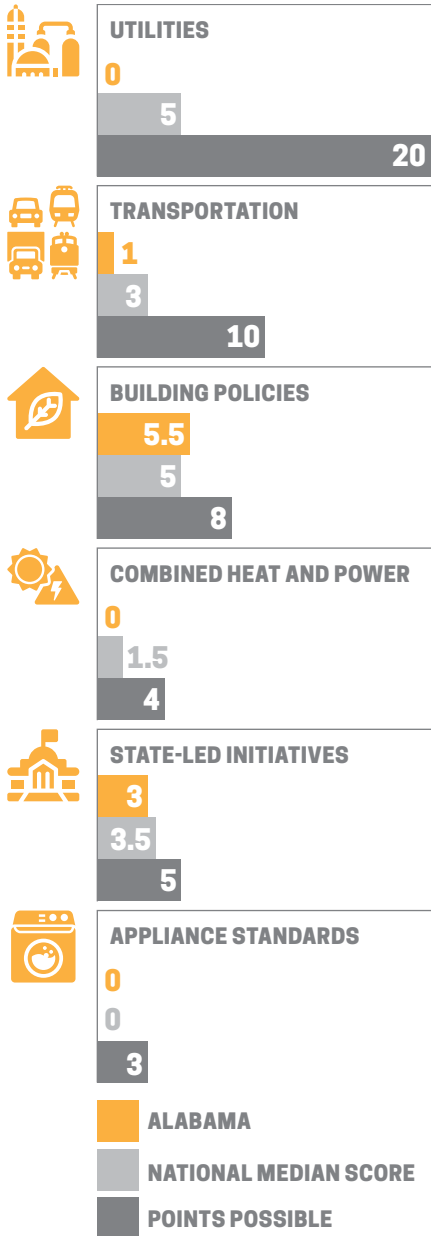




# Alabama

Alabama tied for 43rd in the 2018 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, the same position it held in 2017. The state earned 9.5 points out of a possible 50, a half-point more than last year.

Alabama has shown a commitment to strengthening energy efficiency in the buildings sector through adoption of updates to building energy codes, compliance assessments, and support of codes training for builders, code officials, and contractors. However opportunities remain in 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. Alabama’s neighbors Mississippi and Louisiana are nearby examples of states that have begun to cultivate a more robust offering of utility-sector efficiency programs. By undertaking similar efforts, as well as establishing long-term savings targets and pursuing more sustainable transportation policies, Alabama could achieve substantially greater energy savings in the future.



## UTILITIES

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 range of energy efficiency services for their utilities. Opportunities are available for the state to pursue new utility business models that encourage customer energy efficiency.

## TRANSPORTATION

Although Alabama has a comprehensive freight plan in place, opportunities remain to improve energy efficiency through performance measures and targets such as emissions or gallons per ton-mile of freight moved. The state legislature passed a bill establishing a new public transportation trust fund to increase investment in public transportation and allow the state to apply for federal grants to fund improvements in the sector. However there remains room for growth in this policy area.

## BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

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

Alabama has limited policies to encourage CHP deployment.

## STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

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. The University of Alabama’s Center for Advanced Vehicle Technologies conducts research on efficient vehicles.

## APPLIANCE STANDARDS

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