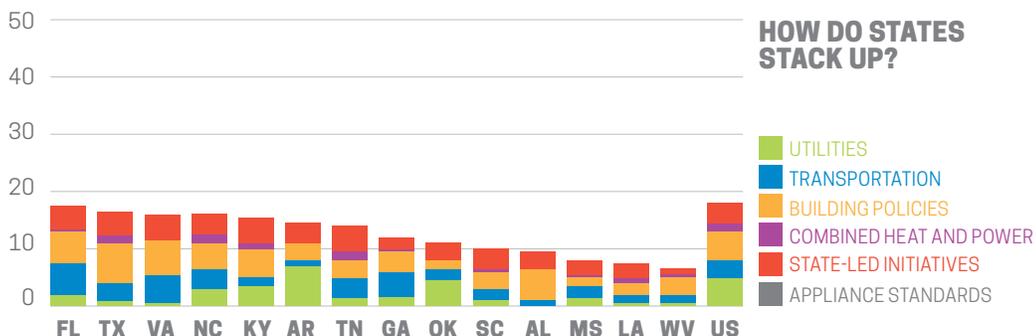


South



OVERALL MEDIAN SCORE

13

 POINTS
OUT OF 50


HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The highest-ranking state in the southern region is Florida at 23rd place, followed closely by Texas (25th), and Virginia and North Carolina (tied for 26th). Most states in the South appear in the bottom half of the 2018 *State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*. Progress on energy efficiency has been mixed. States like Texas, Florida, Virginia, and Alabama have shown leadership in adopting more efficient building energy codes; however Arkansas and North Carolina are the only states thus far to show a significant commitment to achieving savings in the utility sector by adopting an energy efficiency resource standard. While Virginia's signing of the Grid Transformation and Security Act appears to signal a promising new era of investment in efficiency, across the South, states have opportunities to improve by increasing savings in the utility sector, strengthening investment in sustainable transportation policies, and promoting cost-effective CHP as an energy efficiency resource.

UTILITIES

As of 2018, Arkansas and North Carolina are the only states in the region that have adopted energy efficiency resource standards targeting specific utility-sector savings goals. Arkansas utility savings continue to grow in accordance with rising savings goals, and Virginia adopted new energy legislation this year calling for a tripling of utility efficiency budgets over the next 10 years. Most other states in the region have seen savings levels flatten. Several states grant performance incentives to encourage utility-sector efficiency, but many do not. Significant opportunity remains to bring regional savings in line with the national average.

TRANSPORTATION

Florida and Virginia earned the highest number of points in the region. Both have statutes providing dedicated revenue streams for transit improvements, and complete streets legislation to foster increased use of alternatives to driving. None of these states has adopted California's greenhouse gas emission standards. A variety of opportunities are available to strengthen efficiency in this category, including promotion of fuel-efficient vehicles, reducing vehicle miles traveled, and smart growth strategies.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

Texas earned the highest number of points in the region, followed by Virginia, Alabama, and Florida. These regional leaders have been proactive in approving updates aligning their building energy codes with the 2015 IECC; however many states in the region have not updated codes beyond 2009 standards. Many of these states have partnered with the DOE's Building Energy Codes Program in recent years to conduct residential energy code field studies to document baseline practices and target areas for improvement. These include Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Texas.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER

North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas earned the highest number of points in the region, each with some policies to encourage CHP deployment such as grant and bond programs, interconnection standards for CHP, and streamlined permitting processes. However, none of the southern states have set production goals for CHP in critical facilities, and opportunities remain for states to further incentivize the technology.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee tied to lead this category. All of these states offer an array of state-sponsored incentives and financing for efficiency upgrades. Each has also adopted some lead by example policies, such as benchmarking requirements for public buildings, supporting energy savings performance contracting, or encouraging efficiency in state vehicle fleets. Several of these states, including Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Texas, and Virginia also have active PACE programs.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

States in this region have not set appliance standards beyond those required by the federal government.