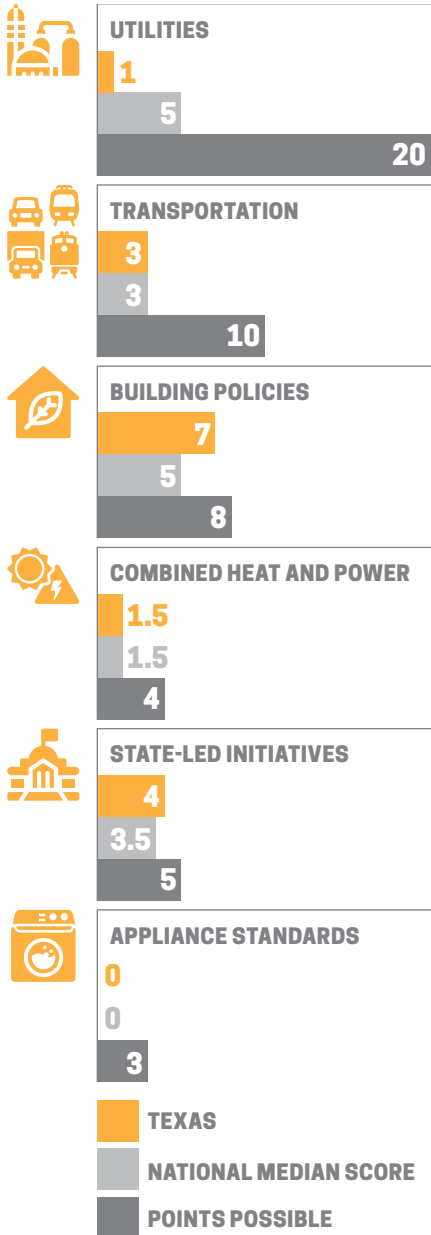




Texas

Texas ranked 25th in the 2018 State Scorecard, rising one spot compared to 2017. The state scored 16.5 points out of a possible 50, the same score it earned last year.

In May 2017, the state legislature restored a \$2,500 rebate for the purchase of electric vehicles. Texas has lost a large portion of its potential for energy savings by allowing large customers to opt out of utility efficiency programs. To encourage utilities to implement a broader portfolio of energy efficiency programs, the state could strengthen its energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) by increasing savings targets—with a focus on overall sales rather than peak savings—and couple it with performance incentives to align the utility business model with efficiency.



UTILITIES

Despite being the first state to implement an EERS, its targets are some of the lowest in the nation. Therefore, Texas realizes low levels of electricity savings compared to the national average. Utilities do not focus on natural gas efficiency. Electric utilities may earn performance incentives for achieving energy savings goals, but the state also allows large customers to opt out of efficiency programs, significantly minimizing the achievable savings.

TRANSPORTATION

The state has issued legislation supporting complete streets and has seen a reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita in recent years. In addition, there are a significant number of electric vehicle registrations throughout the state. In May 2017, the state legislature restored a previously discontinued electric rebate program for electric vehicles under the Texas Emissions Reduction Program.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

In 2016, Texas began requiring single-family residential homes to comply with the 2015 IRC and commercial and multifamily buildings to comply with the 2015 IECC. The state is working with the US Department of Energy to conduct a baseline compliance study. Texas convenes a stakeholder advisory group, has a strategic compliance plan in place, and offers training and outreach.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER

The state has established an interconnection standard, although it does not apply to all system sizes. Texas requires that critical facilities conduct a feasibility study for CHP prior to construction. Four new CHP installations were completed in 2017.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state runs Texas LoanSTAR, a major loan program for energy efficiency investments, and has an active commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. Texas leads by example by requiring energy-efficient public buildings and fleets, benchmarking state buildings, and promoting the use of energy savings performance contracts. Two major research centers in Texas are focused on energy efficiency.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

While Texas is one of the few states to have standards on plumbing products, no analysis that estimates energy savings has been completed.