



2019 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

South Carolina

South Carolina tied for 40th in the 2019 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, gaining one position this year. The state scored 10.5 points out of a possible 50, a half-point more than it earned in 2018.



UTILITIES

1.5

5.5

20



TRANSPORTATION

2

3.5

10



BUILDING POLICIES

3

5

8



COMBINED HEAT AND POWER

0

0.5

3



STATE-LED INITIATIVES

4

4

6



APPLIANCE STANDARDS

0

0

3

SOUTH CAROLINA

NATIONAL MEDIAN SCORE

POINTS POSSIBLE

South Carolina has room for improvement across multiple policy areas. To increase investment in cost-effective energy efficiency, South Carolina could set long-term statewide energy savings targets for all utilities. The state could also maximize achievable savings by designing energy efficiency programs that are responsive to the needs of large industrial customers, or by offering large customers the option to self direct their program dollars. South Carolina could also expand public building benchmarking requirements to the residential and commercial sectors. To further invest in local economic development, the state could integrate land use and transportation planning or enact policies to support the deployment of combined heat and power (CHP).

UTILITIES (1.5 OF 20 POINTS)

Utility spending on electricity and natural gas programs and overall energy savings are below the national median. Because the state allows large customers to opt out of efficiency programs, 50% of the eligible load does not participate. While South Carolina does have short-term electricity savings targets in place as a result of a utility merger, it does not have a long-term energy efficiency resource standard. The state has approved lost revenue adjustment mechanisms and performance incentives for Duke Energy Progress and South Carolina Electric & Gas Company.

TRANSPORTATION (2 OF 10 POINTS)

The state has seen a notable drop in vehicle miles traveled per capita and an increase in electric vehicle registrations in recent years. South Carolina has complete streets legislation and has also completed a comprehensive freight plan, but much can be done to support public transit and sustainable land use planning.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (3 OF 8 POINTS)

Residential and commercial building energy codes reference the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), leaving opportunity to adopt more up-to-date codes. To encourage code compliance, South Carolina conducts training for and outreach to contractors and code officials, although opportunities remain to assess compliance rates and engage stakeholders to strengthen implementation of codes.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (0 OF 3 POINTS)

The state offers a biomass energy tax credit in support of biomass CHP, but otherwise offers relatively few policies to incentivize combined heat and power technologies. One new CHP system was installed in 2018.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (4 OF 6 POINTS)

The state offers several incentives for energy efficiency improvements in manufactured homes, businesses, industry, and public buildings. The state government leads by example with efficiency targets for public buildings in addition to benchmarking energy use and encouraging energy savings performance contracts.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OF 3 POINTS)

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