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2019 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

Tennessee

Tennessee tied for 30th in the 2019 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, rising five places from the position it held in 2018. The state earned 14.5 points out of a possible 50, a half-point increase from last year.

Tennessee has shown leadership on energy efficiency in recent years through its EmPower TN initiative to reduce consumption across state-owned and managed facilities. The Tennessee Valley Authority and its distribution utilities also provide efficiency services, although these offerings have been more limited in recent years and savings and investment levels remain below the national average. Tennessee has opportunities to continue to expand its efforts through policies that encourage efficient use of transportation fuels, and by adopting and enforcing stronger building energy codes.



UTILITIES



UTILITIES (1 OF 20 POINTS)

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) runs electricity efficiency programs, but investments and savings remain below the national average. TVA incorporates energy efficiency into its integrated resource planning process, although savings are expected to continue at low levels under the new integrated resource plan (IRP) approved in 2019. No utilities report budgets or savings for natural gas efficiency programs. Performance incentives are not available to utilities.



TRANSPORTATION



TRANSPORTATION (3.5 OF 10 POINTS)

The state has seen a reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita in recent years, as well as a sizeable increase in the number of electric vehicles registered. Tennessee allows regional authorities to set up dedicated funding streams for mass transit and its MultiModal Access Grant supports projects that address the needs of transit users, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The state has passed complete street legislation, but additional opportunities remain, such as establishing incentives for high-efficiency vehicles and setting goals for vehicle miles traveled. The state also considers the proximity of transit facilities when distributing federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to qualifying property owners.



BUILDING POLICIES



BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (3.5 OF 8 POINTS)

The state has adopted the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for residential construction, and the 2012 IECC for commercial and state-owned buildings; however, because Tennessee is a “home rule” state, significant variation exists in codes adoption and enforcement at the local level. While some jurisdictions have adopted codes exceeding those of the state, a number of jurisdictions have opted out of code enforcement. Tennessee is conducting a residential energy code compliance field study and hosts code training sessions.



COMBINED HEAT AND POWER



COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (2 OF 3 POINTS)

The state offers financing assistance for combined heat and power (CHP) projects as well as incentives for its deployment of CHP through several programs. Tennessee also has interconnection standards that are favorable for CHP systems. In February 2019, TVA approved a project that will seek to deploy CHP, solar, and other technologies to address behind-the-meter customer needs and to provide high levels of distribution system reliability and resiliency. Two new CHP systems were installed in 2018.



STATE-LED INITIATIVES



STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (4.5 OF 6 POINTS)

The state offers a variety of financial incentives for energy efficiency in schools, public buildings, low-income households, and businesses. The state government leads by example by benchmarking energy use, requiring energy-efficient fleets, and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. Tennessee has several major research centers with a focus on energy efficiency.



APPLIANCE STANDARDS



APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OF 3 POINTS)

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

