

Oklahoma

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Oklahoma tied for 37th in the 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, the same position it held last year. The state scored 11.5 points out of a possible 50, a half-point less than it earned in 2019.

While utility efficiency programs have expanded in recent years, electric savings still remain lower than the national average and are significantly limited by the ability of large customers to opt out. Energy savings targets could improve long-term certainty. In addition, updating building energy codes and putting a greater focus on efficient transportation could improve energy savings within the state.

UTILITIES

Utilities run electricity and natural gas efficiency programs, but savings lag behind the national average. Large electric customers are allowed to opt out of efficiency programs and about 90% of eligible customers have chosen to do so, representing a large portion of total load and potential energy efficiency gains. Performance incentives are available for utilities, and mechanisms are in place to deal with lost revenues; however, there is no energy efficiency resource standard in Oklahoma. Significant room remains to ramp up programs and achieve higher energy savings.

TRANSPORTATION

Oklahoma has a freight plan and offers consumer incentives for high-efficiency vehicles. The state has also seen a reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita, but there is room for improvement in this area. HB 1365, passed in 2019, created the Office of Mobility and Public Transit within the Department of Transportation. This new office works to ensure the safety, affordability, and reliability of Oklahoma's public transit systems.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

Oklahoma has significant room for improvement in strengthening efficiency in the building sector. Residential buildings must comply with the 2015 International Residential Code (IRC); however, the energy chapter references the 2009 IRC. Commercial buildings must meet 2015 International Code Council (ICC)/International Building Code (IBC) standards; however, its energy chapter references the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Confusion regarding code enforcement authority has led to limited adoption within the state. The state building code commission offers free training to licensed building inspectors.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

State government leads by example by requiring efficient buildings, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. Opportunities remain to set efficiency targets for state vehicle fleets. Oklahoma has also authorized counties to develop commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, and in 2020, SB 1592 expanded the scope of the current Oklahoma Energy Independence Act to allow all properties but single family residences to be eligible for C-PACE.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

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

