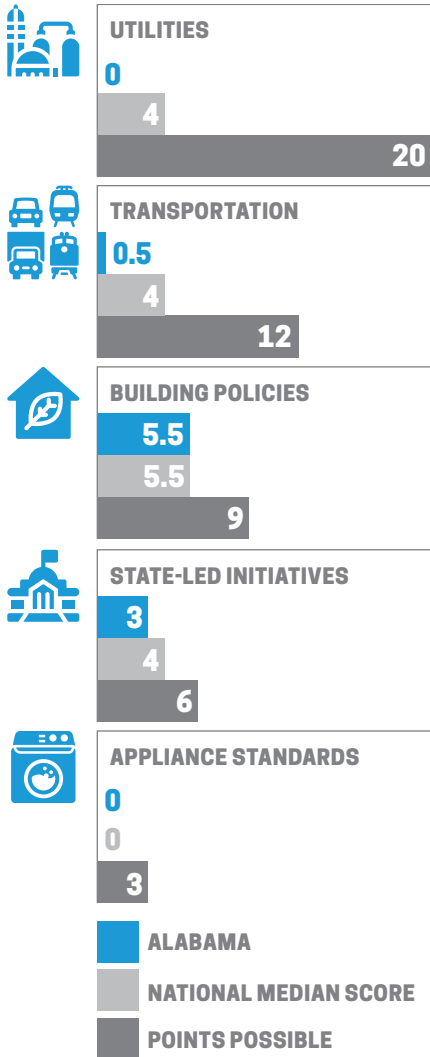




Alabama

Alabama tied for 44th place in the *2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, one position lower than it held in 2019. The state earned 9 points out of a possible 50, a half-point less than it earned last year.

Alabama has shown a commitment to strengthening energy efficiency in the buildings sector through updates to building energy codes, compliance assessments, and support of codes training for builders, code officials, and contractors. However, opportunities remain in other policy categories. Alabama’s neighbors Mississippi and Louisiana are examples of states that have begun to cultivate a more robust offering of utility-sector efficiency programs. By undertaking similar efforts, as well as establishing long-term savings targets and pursuing more sustainable transportation policies, Alabama could achieve substantially greater energy savings in the future.



UTILITIES

Alabama reports low levels of electricity savings and does not run natural gas efficiency programs. Budgets for electricity programs were some of the lowest in the country, which means customers generally do not have access to a range of energy efficiency services for their utilities. Opportunities are available for the state to pursue new utility business models that encourage investments in energy efficiency.

TRANSPORTATION

Although Alabama has a comprehensive freight plan in place, opportunities remain to improve energy efficiency through performance measures and targets such as emissions or gallons per ton-mile of freight moved. The state does have a dedicated transit revenue stream; however, room for growth remains in this policy area. Consumer electric vehicle (EV) adoption is impeded by the state’s burdensome EV registration fee, which is among the highest in the United States.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

The 2015 Alabama Residential Energy Code, based on the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with state-specific amendments, took effect in 2016 along with an updated commercial buildings code based on the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1-2013. Local jurisdictions may adopt more stringent codes. Alabama worked with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to publish a residential energy code field study in 2017, and state agencies provide ongoing training and outreach on code compliance.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state funds a revolving loan program called AlabamaSaves, which offers loans to consumers. The Alabama government also leads by example, encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts and requiring energy-efficient fleets and benchmarking for buildings. The University of Alabama’s Center for Advanced Vehicle Technologies conducts research on efficient vehicles.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

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