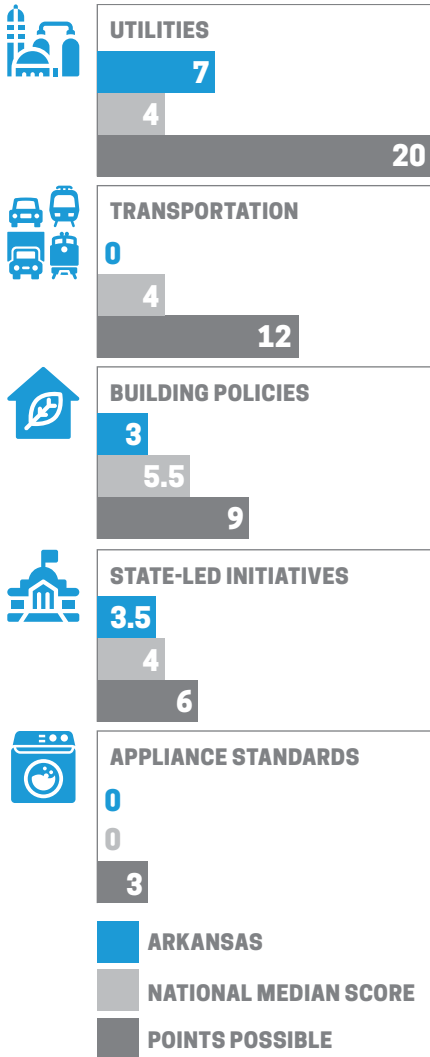




Arkansas

Arkansas tied for 33rd place in the 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, the same position it held in 2019. However, the state scored a half-point less than in 2019, earning 13.5 points out of a possible 50.

The state's investor-owned utilities continue to report among the highest levels of savings in the Southeast, spurred by a statewide energy efficiency resource standard (EERS). However large industrial customers and state-supported higher education institutions are permitted to opt out of efficiency programs, reducing cost-effective energy savings opportunities. Arkansas has opportunities to improve efficiency in other sectors of the economy by strengthening building codes and pursuing more efficient transportation policies and support for electric vehicle (EV) adoption. The state currently imposes one of the highest EV registration fees in the United States.



UTILITIES

Arkansas is one of the only Southeastern states to have an EERS that sets long-term savings targets and performance incentives, which are awarded annually to utilities for meeting efficiency goals. Electricity savings have increased consistently in recent years and are poised to continue their growth, thanks to newly approved 2020–22 program cycle efficiency targets of 1.2% and 0.5% for electricity and natural gas, respectively. However, large customers are still permitted to opt out of efficiency offerings, undermining potential savings.

TRANSPORTATION

Arkansas has a dedicated transit revenue stream and comprehensive freight plan in place but has not otherwise pursued policies to encourage efficient transportation systems. In addition, consumer EV adoption is impeded by the state's burdensome EV registration fee, which is among the highest in the United States. There is still significant opportunity for improvement in this policy area.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

The state currently follows the 2014 Arkansas Energy Code, which is based on the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with amendments and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1-2007. However, discussions have been under way in 2020 to potentially update codes to the 2018 IECC. The Energy Office also administers the Arkansas Home Energy Score, a voluntary rating system designed to provide homebuyers and homeowners information about a home's relative energy performance, as well as recommendations regarding how to improve its efficiency.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

Arkansas offers loans for energy-related cost reduction retrofits and green energy projects, and has also enabled Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. The state government also leads by example, setting energy savings targets, benchmarking energy usage in state buildings, and encouraging energy savings performance contracts.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

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