

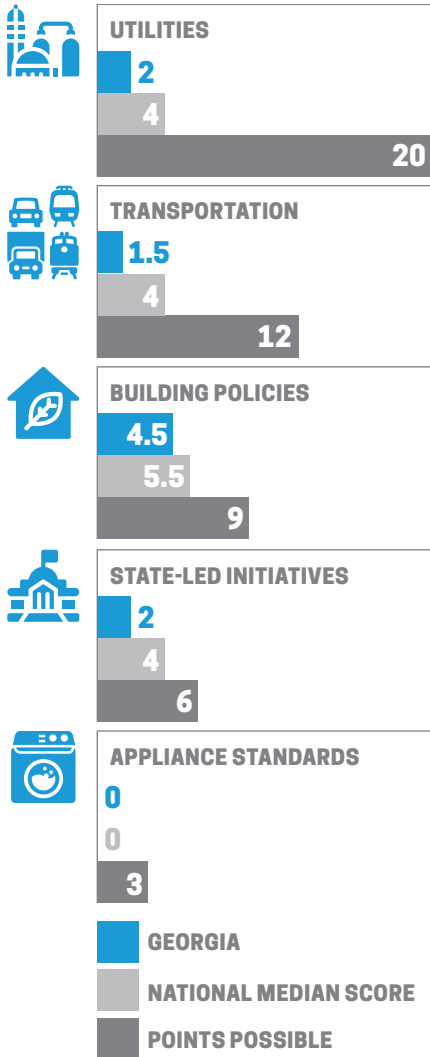
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2020 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

Georgia

Georgia ranked 42nd in the 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling four positions compared to 2019. The state earned 10 out of a possible 50 points, 1 point less than last year.

Savings from Georgia utilities continue to trail behind the national average; however Georgia Power's most recent Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) calls for a notable increase in efficiency funding as well as new programs for customers. Setting concrete energy savings goals could spur utilities to ramp up programs over time. In addition, Georgia's updated building energy code went into effect January 1, 2020. Focusing on efficiency policies across a variety of sectors could significantly improve Georgia's standing in the State Scorecard.



UTILITIES

Although Georgia continues to report below-average levels of electricity savings, energy efficiency is poised to see an uptick following the recent approval of Georgia Power's 2019 IRP. The plan features a 15% increase in energy savings relative to previous IRPs, significantly increasing funding for low-income weatherization and adding new programs for residential and commercial customers. The state has put performance incentives in place for utilities, which help to encourage some investment in energy efficiency.

TRANSPORTATION

The state has complete streets legislation in place and integrates transportation and land use planning. Georgia also considers the proximity of transit facilities when distributing federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to qualifying property owners, but there is still room for growth. In addition, the state has more electric vehicles (EV) registered per capita than most states; however, its burdensome EV registration fee, which is among the highest in the United States, impedes consumer EV adoption.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

Georgia recently updated its building energy codes to the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) 90.1-2013, effective January 1, 2020. The state also offers a green building standard as an optional code. The Department of Community Affairs and Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) work together to provide training across the state when there is a code update. Southface is also involved in training and is funded by GEFA with State Energy Program funds for this purpose.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The Georgia government leads by example, requiring energy-efficient buildings, benchmarking of energy usage in state buildings, and encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts. However, the state no longer offers consumers financial incentives for energy efficiency investments. Two institutions in the state conduct research and development focused on energy efficiency.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

Georgia has adopted no new appliance standards in the past three years, although the state did adopt plumbing standards in 2010. No analysis has been completed to estimate energy savings from these standards.