

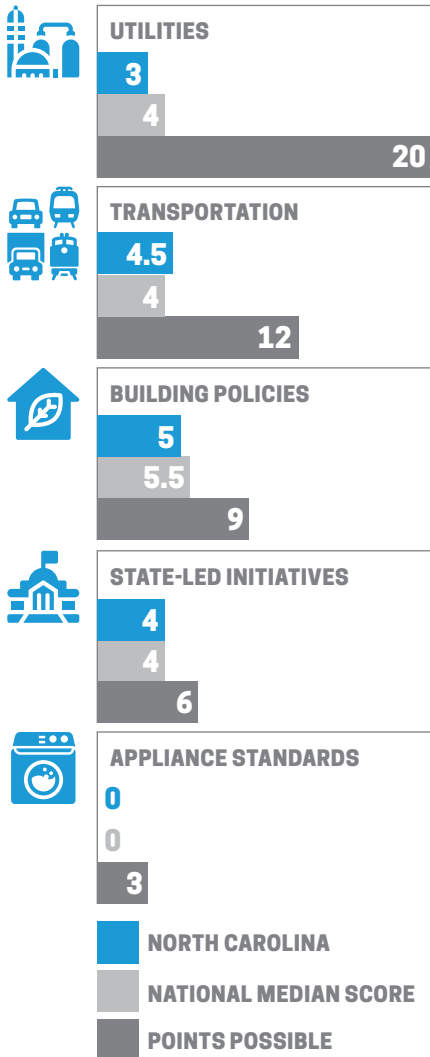
27

2020 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

North Carolina

North Carolina tied for 27th in the 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling one position from 2019. The state earned 16.5 points out of a possible 50, 1 point more than it earned last year.

The state’s levels of electricity savings remain around the national median. North Carolina’s renewable portfolio standard includes efficiency as an eligible measure, but it does not create clear guidance for cost-effective energy efficiency investments. ACEEE completed a study in 2020 which found that policies to improve the energy efficiency of homes and buildings in North Carolina over the next two decades could restore jobs and save \$5.9 billion in electricity costs. Recommendations to meet this energy-savings potential include establishing minimum energy savings targets for utility programs, removing barriers to adoption of high-efficiency heat pumps, designing programs to encourage participation of large industrial customers in utility energy efficiency, and expanding programs for traditionally underserved rural, low-income, rental, agricultural, and small business customers.



UTILITIES

Utilities run electricity efficiency programs and some limited natural gas programs. The state has a renewable portfolio standard that offers credit for energy efficiency; however, the ability of industrial customers to opt out of energy efficiency programs limits achievable savings. North Carolina has approved performance incentives and lost revenue adjustment mechanisms for specific utilities.

TRANSPORTATION

The state has complete streets legislation, a comprehensive freight plan, a dedicated revenue stream for transit investments, and integrates transportation and land use planning. North Carolina also has more electric vehicle registrations per capita than most states. Governor Cooper’s Executive Order 80 directed an increase in the number of registered zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) to at least 80,000 statewide by 2025.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

Residential and commercial buildings must comply with standards equivalent to the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with weakening amendments, making it similar to the 2012 IECC. The state conducts code training and outreach and has also partnered with DOE to undertake a residential energy code field study.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

North Carolina offers two financial incentive programs for energy efficiency investments. The state government leads by example by requiring efficient buildings and fleets, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts. Several research centers within the state focus on energy efficiency, including the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center at North Carolina State University. In 2019 the state in partnership with the Nicholas Institute at Duke University released the North Carolina Energy Efficiency Roadmap to help the state meet its energy savings potential and achieve the goals of the state’s Clean Energy Plan.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

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