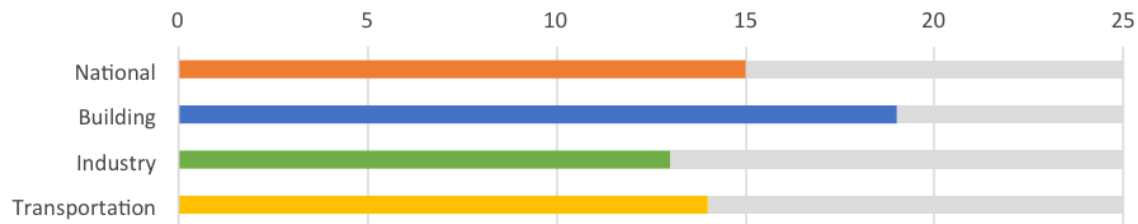


4 China



China tied for fourth with France, and ranked significantly higher than the United States for the second time, just behind the EU.

China ranked first in building energy efficiency. Residential buildings consume less energy per square foot than those in any other country analyzed, and commercial buildings have the second lowest energy consumption per square foot. Both residential and commercial buildings in urban areas are subject to mandatory building codes. However, China still has room for improvement in the compliance and enforcement of its building codes, which have been historically stronger at the design stage than the construction stage. China has also adopted appliance and equipment standards for a relatively large number of products and requires energy efficiency labeling for some building types.

China also scored well in transportation efficiency, tied with Brazil, France, and Spain. In addition to its low average passenger-vehicle fuel economy, China has mandatory fuel economy standards for both passenger vehicles and heavy-duty trucks. The number of vehicle miles traveled per person is very low, and the percentage of trips taken by public transit is higher than in any other country. In June 2012, China enacted an energy-savings plan and a new development plan for the auto-industry aimed at producing energy-efficient vehicles. Under the plan, passenger-vehicle fuel consumption is expected to drop, and the country has a target of 5 million plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles by 2020.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Even though the Chinese government has developed an array of policies and tax credits or loan programs to support energy efficiency, the country ranked only moderately in comparison to the national efforts of other countries. China's spending on energy efficiency research and development remains low, and the efficiency of thermal power plants and the per-capita investment in energy efficiency is in the middle range of the countries analyzed. Countries or regions such as Japan and the EU have some good examples of national energy efficiency policies that could be emulated.

The energy intensity of China's industrial sector is the second highest of the countries analyzed, and there is little investment in research and development for industrial manufacturing.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more information on China's building codes: http://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/documents/CountryReport_China.pdf

For more information on China's energy efficiency policies: <http://www.iea.org/policiesandmeasures/energyefficiency/?country=China>