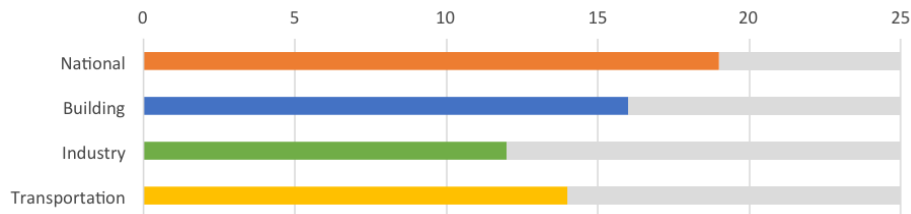


# 4

# France



*Tying for fourth with China, France scored 61 points, just 2 points away from second place.*

France's strongest score was due to its national efforts to promote energy efficiency. France has experienced the greatest decrease in overall energy intensity of all countries analyzed, with a 50% reduction over the last decade. France has made a major commitment under the EU's Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) to reduce energy consumption by more than 17% by 2020. France also has the largest energy service companies market of all of the countries analyzed.

In addition, France scored well in building energy efficiency. Residential and commercial buildings in France consume a relatively high amount of energy per square foot, but France has established strong mandatory building codes and a mandatory building labeling program for all buildings. New building codes in France, *Réglementation Thermique 2012* (RT2012), are expected to bring significant improvements to the energy performance of buildings.

## AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

France is a leader in many aspects of the energy efficiency policies and practices of its industrial sector. However, the energy intensity of the sector could be further reduced by requiring industrial facilities to employ energy managers and by increasing the amount of electricity generated by combined heat and power.

The energy intensity of freight transport in France is high, and investment in rail versus roads is low.

France would benefit from measures to decrease the energy intensity of freight transport by investing in rail transit and encouraging the use of public transit for passenger travel. Other countries including Brazil and Russia have improved transportation efficiency through similar efforts and offer examples worthy of emulation.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more information on France's national energy efficiency commitment: [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/eed/doc/reporting/2013/fr\\_2013report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/eed/doc/reporting/2013/fr_2013report_en.pdf)

For more information on France's building codes: <http://www.sustainablebuildingscentre.org/buildings/codes/France/National/non-residential/new/RT2012>