14 India

Coming in 14th, India scored a total of 48.5 points. India is strongest in transportation energy efficiency. It has a far lower number of passenger miles traveled per capita than any other country analyzed. Even with no fuel economy standards for passenger vehicles, India ranks third in passenger-vehicle fuel economy. More than 65% of passenger trips made in India utilize public transit, with only a moderate level of government investment in rail versus roads. However it is important to note that India’s successes in the transportation sector have more to do with the status of its economy than with its efforts to reduce energy consumption.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

India ranked 15th in national efforts on energy efficiency, and there are many opportunities to improve in this category. The operational efficiency of thermal power plants in India is the lowest of any country analyzed, largely due to an aging power plant fleet. India would benefit from increasing its level of government and utility investment in energy efficiency in addition to spending on efficiency R&D, if efficiency is truly a priority for the country.

India’s buildings sector also shows room for improvement, as India was sixth from the bottom in this section. The country could further bolster its voluntary energy codes for both residential and commercial buildings by adding requirements for existing residential and commercial buildings. The government could also focus on making building codes mandatory for new buildings, as much of India’s building stock has yet to be developed. Further, India has appliance and equipment standards for just seven products; its efficiency in the buildings sector could improve significantly if it expanded its efforts in this area.

Last, the industrial sector also offers numerous opportunities for energy savings. Establishing a program that creates voluntary agreements between manufacturers and the government would kick-start some of these energy savings by holding manufacturers accountable for their energy consumption.

The bars show ACEEE scores for energy efficiency. The pie chart shows 2013 end-use energy shares of buildings, industry, transportation, and other sectors.