



Arkansas

Arkansas tied for 34th in the 2018 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling three places from its 2017 ranking. The state scored 14.5 points out of a possible 50, the same score it earned in 2017.

The state continues to rank among the most energy-efficient states in the Southeast and is one of the few states in the region to set long-term efficiency targets for utilities. As its utility programs mature, Arkansas continues to achieve increasingly higher levels of savings in its homes and businesses. However legislation allowing large industrial customers and state-supported higher education institutions to opt out of efficiency programs has reduced available savings benefits. Arkansas has opportunities to improve by strengthening building codes, pursuing more efficient transportation policies, and encouraging CHP as a resource.



UTILITIES



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Arkansas is one of the only southeastern states to have an energy efficiency resource standard that sets long-term savings targets and performance incentives, which are awarded annually to utilities for meeting efficiency goals. Electricity savings have increased consistently in recent years and are poised to continue their growth thanks to new, approved 2020–22 program cycle efficiency targets of 1.2% and 0.5% for electricity and natural gas, respectively. However large customers are still permitted to opt out of efficiency offerings, undermining potential savings.



TRANSPORTATION



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Arkansas has a dedicated transit revenue stream in place but has not otherwise pursued policies to encourage efficient transportation systems. There is still significant opportunity for improvement in this policy area.



BUILDING POLICIES

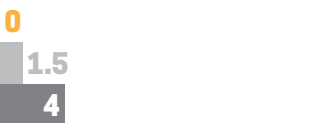


BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

The 2014 Arkansas Energy Code is based on the 2009 IECC with amendments and is mandatory for both commercial and residential new construction. Newly constructed or remodeled public buildings must comply with ASHRAE 90.1-2007. The state has completed several code compliance activities, most recently through a 2017 collaboration with the US Department of Energy on a Residential Energy Code Field Study to measure code compliance and improve training.



COMBINED HEAT AND POWER



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The state does not have policies in place to encourage cost-effective and efficient CHP deployment.



STATE-LED INITIATIVES



STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

Arkansas offers loans for energy-related cost reduction retrofits and green energy projects and has also enabled Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. The state government also leads by example, benchmarking energy usage in state buildings and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. The state does not fund any energy efficiency research or development programs.



APPLIANCE STANDARDS



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

