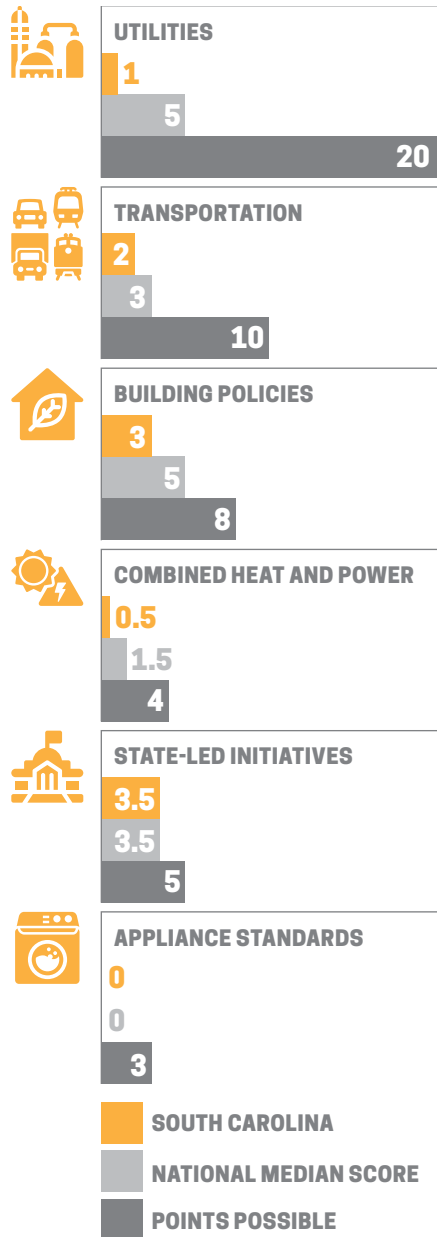




# South Carolina

South Carolina tied for 41st in the 2018 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, gaining one position this year. The state scored 10 points out of a possible 50, half a point more than it earned in 2017.

South Carolina has room for improvement across multiple policy areas. To increase investment in low-cost energy efficiency, South Carolina could set long-term statewide energy savings targets for all utilities. The state could also maximize achievable savings by designing energy efficiency programs that are responsive to the needs of large industrial customers or by offering large customers the option to self direct their program dollars. South Carolina could also expand public building benchmarking requirements to the residential and commercial sectors. To further invest in local economic development, the state could integrate land use and transportation planning or enact policies to support the deployment of combined heat and power.



## UTILITIES

Utility spending on electricity and natural gas programs and overall energy savings are below the national median. Because the state allows large customers to opt out of efficiency programs, 50% of the eligible load does not participate. While South Carolina does have short-term electricity savings targets in place as a result of a utility merger, it does not have a long-term energy efficiency resource standard. The state has approved lost revenue adjustment mechanisms and performance incentives for Duke Energy Progress and South Carolina Electric & Gas Company.

## TRANSPORTATION

The state saw a significant drop in vehicle miles traveled per capita in recent years. South Carolina has complete streets legislation and has also completed a comprehensive freight plan.

## BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

Residential and commercial building energy codes reference the 2009 IECC, leaving opportunity to adopt more up-to-date codes. To encourage code compliance, South Carolina conducts training for and outreach to contractors and code officials, although opportunities remain to assess compliance rates and engage stakeholders to strengthen implementation of codes.

## COMBINED HEAT AND POWER

The state offers a biomass energy tax credit in support of biomass CHP, but otherwise offers relatively few policies to incentivize combined heat and power technologies. No new CHP systems were installed in 2017. Significant opportunity remains in this area.

## STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state offers several incentives for energy efficiency improvements in manufactured homes, businesses, industry, and public buildings. The state government leads by example by requiring energy-efficient public buildings, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. There are no major research programs focused on energy efficiency within the state.

## APPLIANCE STANDARDS

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