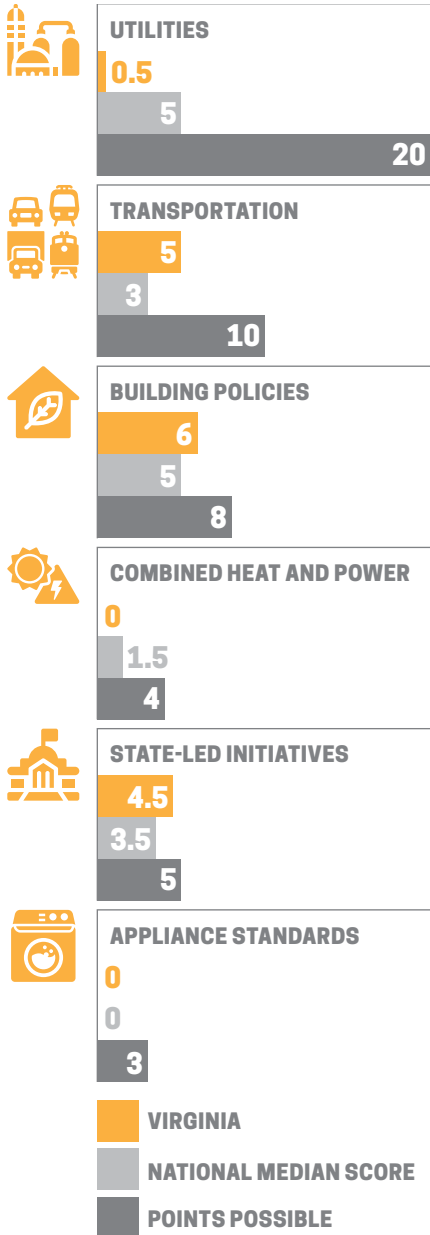




Virginia

Virginia tied for 26th in the 2018 State Scorecard, rising three positions since 2017. The state scored 16 points out of a possible 50, a half-point more than it earned last year.

While Virginia has historically reported savings below the national average, the state set the stage for a potential increase in efficiency this year with the signing of the Grid Transformation and Security Act of 2018 (HB 1558/SB 966). The law requires regulated utilities to spend \$1.3 billion on energy efficiency over the next 10 years, which would more than triple efficiency budgets. However, given state regulators' history of rejecting programs, the future for energy efficiency is still to be determined. Opt-out policies remain in place for large customers; to keep costs low for all Virginia consumers, utilities could design programs that better meet the needs of large customers. Beyond the utility sector, the state could incentivize CHP deployment to deepen energy savings, reduce bills for homes and businesses, and support local economic development.



UTILITIES

Utilities continued to report lower than average budgets and savings for electricity and natural gas efficiency programs; however legislation passed in 2018 requires Dominion and Appalachian Power to greatly increase investment in programs over the next decade. Despite changes the bill makes to the state's administration of program cost-benefit tests, concerns remain that the State Corporation Commission's extremely conservative approach to evaluating program cost-effectiveness could stifle programs. Natural gas utilities may decouple profits from sales, but electric utilities may not. The state exempts certain large customers from paying for new efficiency programs.

TRANSPORTATION

The state devotes significant funding to transportation initiatives, integrates transportation and land use planning, and has passed complete streets legislation. Virginia has seen a reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita in recent years.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development recently adopted the 2015 IECC for residential and commercial buildings. In addition, Virginia has completed a baseline compliance study, regularly convenes building code stakeholders, and offers code trainings.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER

The state has not generally pursued policies to encourage the deployment of CHP, however under grid modernization legislation signed in 2018, large utilities are now required to consider use of CHP either as a demand-side energy efficiency measure or as a supply-side generation alternative.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state offers a variety of consumer incentives for energy efficiency and leads by example by requiring energy-efficient public buildings, benchmarking energy use, and offering an energy savings performance contracting program. Two major research centers in Virginia conduct energy efficiency research.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

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