Utilities (2 of 20 Points)

A 2013 order by the Mississippi Public Service Commission allows utilities to earn a return on energy efficiency investments and has paved the way for the establishment of the state’s Quick Start energy efficiency programs. Utilities began implementing efficiency programs in mid-2014. Recent proceedings extended the Quick Start phase through 2020. Energy savings are still well below national average.

Transportation (2 of 10 Points)

The state has complete streets legislation in place and has a comprehensive freight plan. Vehicle miles traveled have also decreased in recent years. There is still significant room for growth in this policy area.

Building Energy Efficiency Policies (1.5 of 8 Points)

The state updated commercial codes in 2013 to require compliance with American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1-2010. Mississippi is a home-rule state, with a voluntary residential code based on ASHRAE 90-1975. The state has completed a baseline compliance study, but there have been relatively few efforts to strengthen compliance and provide training in recent years.

Combined Heat and Power (-0.5 of 3 Points)

No policies that encourage the deployment of combined heat and power (CHP) systems are in place. One new CHP installation was completed in 2018.

State Government-Led Initiatives (3 of 6 Points)

The state offers two loan programs, as well as a public-sector lease program for energy-efficient equipment. State government leads by example by setting energy requirements for public fleets and benchmarking energy use in state buildings. Mississippi State University’s Energy Institute and Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems conduct energy efficiency-related research.

Appliance Standards (0 of 3 Points)

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

Following several years of significant policy efforts, some utility energy efficiency programs have taken root in Mississippi. The state’s electric utilities launched Quick Start energy efficiency programs in 2014, and while electricity savings are still below average, they could ramp up as efficiency programs continue to mature. Opportunities remain for strengthening efficiency in the transportation sector and adopting updates to building energy codes.