

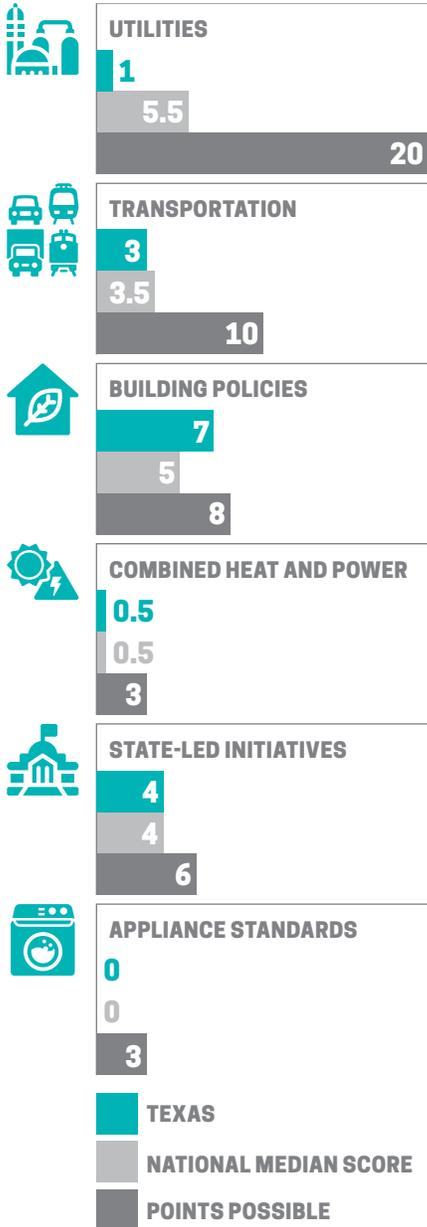
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2019 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

Texas

Texas tied for 26th in the 2019 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling one spot compared to 2018. The state scored 15.5 points out of a possible 50, one point less than it earned last year.

Texas has lost a large portion of its potential for energy savings as large customers opt out of utility efficiency programs. To encourage utilities to implement a broader portfolio of energy efficiency programs, the state could strengthen its energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) by increasing savings targets—with a focus on overall sales rather than peak savings—and couple them with performance incentives to align the utility business model with efficiency.



UTILITIES (1 OF 20 POINTS)

Despite being the first state to implement an EERS, its targets are some of the lowest in the nation. Therefore, Texas realizes low levels of electricity savings compared to the national average. Utilities do not focus on natural gas efficiency. Electric utilities may earn performance incentives for achieving energy savings goals, but the state also allows large customers to opt out of efficiency programs, significantly minimizing the achievable savings.

TRANSPORTATION (3 OF 10 POINTS)

The state has issued legislation supporting complete streets and has seen a reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita in recent years. In addition, there are a significant number of electric vehicle registrations throughout the state. The state also offers a rebate program for electric vehicles under the Texas Emissions Reduction Program.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (7 OF 8 POINTS)

In 2016, Texas began requiring single-family residential homes to comply with the 2015 International Residential Code (IRC) and commercial and multifamily buildings to comply with the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). The state recently worked with the US Department of Energy on a residential energy code field study in southeast Texas. The final project report is expected in 2019. Texas convenes a stakeholder advisory group, has a strategic compliance plan in place, and offers training and outreach.

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (0.5 OF 3 POINTS)

The state has established an interconnection standard, although it does not apply to all system sizes. Texas requires that critical facilities conduct a feasibility study for combined heat and power (CHP) prior to construction. No new CHP installations were completed in 2018.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (4 OF 6 POINTS)

The state runs Texas LoanSTAR, a major loan program for energy efficiency investments, and has an active commercial property assessed clean energy (PACE) program. Texas leads by example by requiring energy-efficient public buildings and fleets, benchmarking state buildings, and promoting the use of energy savings performance contracts. Two major research centers in Texas are focused on energy efficiency.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OF 3 POINTS)

While Texas is one of the few states to have standards on plumbing products, no analysis estimating energy savings has been completed.