

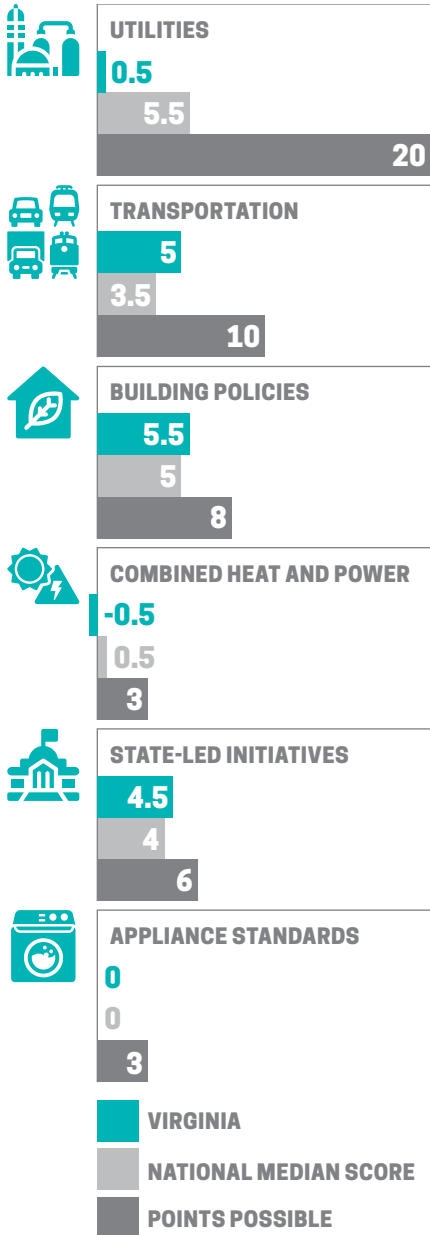


2019 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

Virginia

Virginia ranked 29th in the 2019 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling three positions since 2018. The state scored 15 points out of a possible 50, one point less than it earned last year.

While Virginia has historically reported savings below the national average, the Grid Transformation and Security Act of 2018 (HB 1558/SB 966) could usher in a new era of efficiency. 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 an exemption for large customers will limit overall savings potential. Beyond the utility sector, the state could incentivize combined heat and power (CHP) deployment and consider appliance standards to reduce bills for homes and businesses.



UTILITIES (0.5 OF 20 POINTS)

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. In May of this year, the state approved a portfolio of 11 new energy efficiency and demand response programs for Dominion, set to run through mid-2024. Natural gas utilities may decouple profits from sales, but electric utilities may not. The state also exempts certain large customers from paying for new efficiency programs.

TRANSPORTATION (5 OF 10 POINTS)

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 and an increase in electric vehicles on the road in recent years. The state also considers the proximity of transit facilities when distributing federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to qualifying property owners.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES (5.5 OF 8 POINTS)

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

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (-0.5 OF 3 POINTS)

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. The State Energy Plan also recommends increased state sponsorship of investment in CHP projects and calls out the resilient CHP attributes that are important for critical facilities during severe weather events. No new CHP systems came online in Virginia during 2018.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES (4.5 OF 6 POINTS)

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. The state took steps earlier in the year to implement a carbon cap-and-trade program; however those efforts were stymied when lawmakers passed a budget bill prohibiting any use of state funds to support participation in such a program.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS (0 OF 3 POINTS)

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