Canada does well in the national efforts category. The country’s Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) plan to the UNFCCC aims to achieve an economy-wide target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40–45% below 2005 levels by 2030. Investments in energy efficiency per capita are among the highest of the countries analyzed. Moreover, national tax incentives and loan programs exist in multiple sectors to help reach efficiency targets. Despite these efforts, Canada’s energy intensity has not declined as much when compared to other countries in the report.

Canada is in the middle of the pack for its building energy efficiency policies, due in part to its appliance and equipment standards, which cover 39 products, and to the adoption of its voluntary “EnerGuide” labeling for new and/or renovated homes by some municipalities. The EnerGuide Home Labelling Portal was launched to assist homeowners access energy-related data about their homes online. The Canadian government is investing in building retrofits through the Greener Home Grant Program and setting aside funding from the Canadian Infrastructure Bank for energy-efficient retrofits. Canada can improve its performance by focusing efforts on decreasing energy use intensity in residential and commercial buildings.

Canada scored low in industrial efficiency. While the country has taken certain steps—such as the Canadian Industry Program for Energy Conservation (CIPEC), a government–industry partnership—to address energy use in the industrial sector, there is still much the country can do. Canada could benefit from establishing a mandate for plant energy managers and mandatory energy audits.

Scoring only 9 points out of 25, Canada could benefit from significant improvements to its transportation sector. Like the United States, Canada is a car-heavy economy; as a result, the country has high vehicle miles traveled in personal vehicles per capita. However, Canada has stringent fuel efficiency standards for heavy-duty vehicles and a national smart freight initiative in place. Further energy savings could be gained by increasing investment in rail and encouraging the use of public transit and other modes of efficient transportation. The government’s new mandatory sales target for 100% zero emission vehicles by 2035 will also help Canada’s rank in future editions of the Scorecard.