Russia was among the lowest-ranked countries in the national efforts category. The country has multisector loan programs and tax incentives to promote the deployment of energy-efficient technologies. Thermal power plants in Russia are among the least efficient of the 25 countries that we analyzed. Moreover, national government expenditure in energy efficiency programs and R&D remains very low.

In the buildings sector, Russia scored 8.5 points. Even though building energy codes are mandatory for both residential and commercial buildings, the country’s policies are too weak to stimulate large savings and retrofit policies for existing buildings only apply to some buildings during renovations. Furthermore, appliance and equipment standards apply to only one product. To increase its efficiency in buildings, Russia would benefit from best practices demonstrated in countries such as France, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

Russia performed best in industrial efficiency. The energy intensity of Russia’s industrial sector is high, but a significant portion of the electricity consumed by the sector is generated by combined heat and power, which improves overall efficiency. Despite the high percentage of combined heat and power used, Russia does not have a goal or offer incentives to promote additional combined heat and power capacity. The country does require periodic energy audits of its manufacturing facilities and has agreements and incentives in place between governments and businesses to encourage energy efficiency. However, it has yet to implement mandates to employ energy managers in large industrial facilities and minimum energy performance standards for motors.

Russia scored five points in transportation. The country has low vehicle miles traveled per capita and relatively strong investment in rail transit. While it has not yet adopted smart freight initiatives, a high percentage of the country’s passenger travel is conducted using public transit when compared to other countries. Further energy savings can be gained by adopting fuel economy standards for light-duty vehicles and improving energy efficiency in freight transportation.