Turkey ranked 17th in the national efforts category. Investments in energy efficiency programs and R&D are relatively low compared to the countries analyzed. However, the country has national tax incentives and loan programs to help reach efficiency targets. In addition, the size of Turkey’s ESCO market is relatively large. Nevertheless, there is still room for improvement as the operational efficiency of thermal efficiency plants is low, and Turkey can adopt water savings mandates and implement water efficiency programs.

Turkey scored 14 points in buildings energy efficiency. The country currently has 20 appliance groups covered by energy performance standards (MEPS), but only 1 appliance group is covered by mandatory labels. Turkey also has mandatory building labeling policies for all buildings. The country has mandatory building codes for residential and commercial buildings; however, it could improve by introducing additional technical requirements to increase the efficiency of newly constructed buildings and adopting building performance standards for existing buildings.

Although the country has attractive incentives for energy efficiency in the industrial sector, industrial energy intensity in Turkey remains high. Turkey adopted its 2007 Energy Efficiency Law to support energy efficiency projects and voluntary agreements in industry. If industries are committed to reducing their energy intensity by an average of 10% over a three-year period, the Elektrik Isleri Etüt Idaresi will subsidize 20% of their energy costs during the first year. Turkey also has an energy management systems policy and requires mandatory energy audits. The country could benefit from enacting mandates to employ energy managers in large industrial facilities, growing the number of ISO 50001–certified facilities, and increasing investment in industrial R&D relative to industrial GDP.

Although Turkey’s light-duty vehicles have a high average fuel economy (43.56 mpg), the country does not yet have 2025 fuel efficiency standards in place for light-duty vehicles. Turkey has relatively low vehicle miles traveled per capita, and a relatively high percentage of transportation is conducted using public transit. Further energy savings could be gained by improving the country’s investment in rail versus road transit, improving the energy intensity of freight transport, and adopting fuel efficiency standards for heavy-duty vehicles.