ACEEE'S 2025 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD

UNITED KINGDOM

RANK

3/25

POINTS

79.5/100

NOTABLE STRENGTHS

- Energy Company Obligation program helps low-income households afford energy efficiency improvements
- Offers financial incentives to encourage building retrofits
- Reported the lowest energy intensity in the industrial sector
- Invests more in rail infrastructure than road development

ACTIONS TO TAKE

- Set a goal to reduce national energy consumption
- Reduce energy intensity from residential buildings
- Reduce transmission and distribution losses from electric power generation
- Encourage greater use of public transit

NATIONAL EFFORTS

The United Kingdom ranked 6th in the national efforts chapter. The UK offers both tax incentives and loan programs encouraging investments in efficiency in buildings, electric vehicles, and appliances. The country runs the Energy Company Obligation program to help low-income households afford energy efficiency improvements. Although the UK has a greenhouse gas reduction goal, it should consider establishing a national energy savings goal. The UK should also work to improve transmission and distribution losses from electric power generation, which are 9.1%

BUILDINGS

The UK ranked 6th in the buildings chapter. The UK has five key appliance groups that meet minimum energy performance standards, and it requires categorical appliance and equipment labelling for 16 appliance categories. The UK also has mandatory national building codes that apply to both residential and commercial buildings and offers rebates and grants as financial incentives to encourage retrofits. However, the UK should work to reduce energy intensity from residential buildings.

INDUSTRY

In the industry chapter, the UK tied with France for first place. The country reported the lowest industrial energy intensity at roughly 5.15 kBtus per 2023 U.S. dollar. The UK has voluntary agreements with manufacturers and offers financial incentives for energy efficiency improvements, requires audits of large facilities, and requires large industrial facilities to employ onsite energy-use or sustainability managers. The country also invested the second-greatest percentage of its industrial GDP in research and development in 2024, at 16.57%.

TRANSPORTATION

The UK ranked 2nd in the transportation chapter. The UK has a target requiring passenger cars to limit emissions to 22 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometer by 2030, the most ambitious of the countries evaluated in the scorecard. The UK reported some of the highest electric vehicle sales shares across several vehicle types. It was also one of three countries that invested more in rail infrastructure than road development. Despite this investment, public transit only accounts for 12% of travel in the UK, so the country should make efforts to encourage greater transit use.