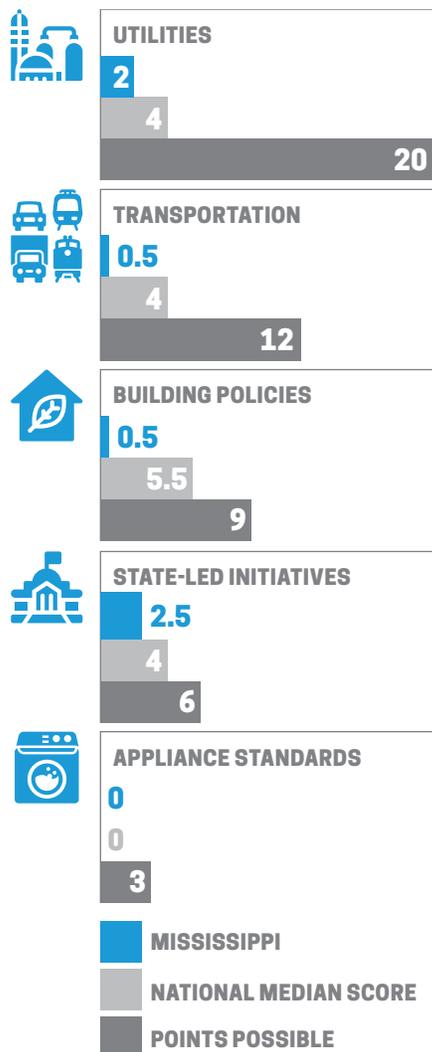


Mississippi

48

Mississippi tied for 48th in the 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling three positions from last year. The state earned 5.5 out of 50 possible points, 2.5 points less than its 2019 score.

Following several years of significant policy efforts, some utility energy efficiency programs have taken root in Mississippi since Quick Start programs were first launched in 2014. However, a 2019 Mississippi Public Service Commission (MPSC) decision that replaced the state’s energy efficiency rule with an Integrated Resource Planning rule leaves some uncertainty regarding the future direction and strength of customer programs. Utilities and state regulators should continue to look for ways to grow and mature efficiency programs that have developed over the past five years. Opportunities remain for strengthening efficiency in the transportation sector and adopting updates to building energy codes.



UTILITIES

A 2013 order by the MPSC allowed utilities to earn a return on energy efficiency investments and paved the way for establishment of the state’s Quick Start energy efficiency programs. However, in December 2019, the MPSC revised its energy efficiency rule (Rule 29) replacing the comprehensive program framework with an Integrated Resource Planning and Reporting rule that incorporates energy efficiency. The commission and utilities will need to continue to value and prioritize the economic benefits of saving energy for consumers going forward in order to ensure that the progress made through the previous five years of programs is not lost.

TRANSPORTATION

The state has complete streets legislation in place and has a comprehensive freight plan. Vehicle miles traveled have also decreased in recent years. There is still significant room for growth in this policy area. The state’s burdensome electric vehicle (EV) registration fee, which is among the highest in the United States, impedes consumer EV adoption.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

The state signed legislation in 2013 to update commercial codes to the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1-2010, but formal steps have not been taken to adopt the codes. Mississippi is a home-rule state, with a voluntary residential code based on ASHRAE 90-1975. However, an advisory group, the Mississippi Building Energy Code Collaborative, has been formed to meet on a quarterly basis for the implementation of both code training and enforcement.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state offers two loan programs, as well as a public-sector lease program for energy-efficient equipment. State government leads by example by setting energy requirements for public fleets and benchmarking energy use in state buildings. Mississippi State University’s Energy Institute and Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems conduct energy efficiency-related research.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

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