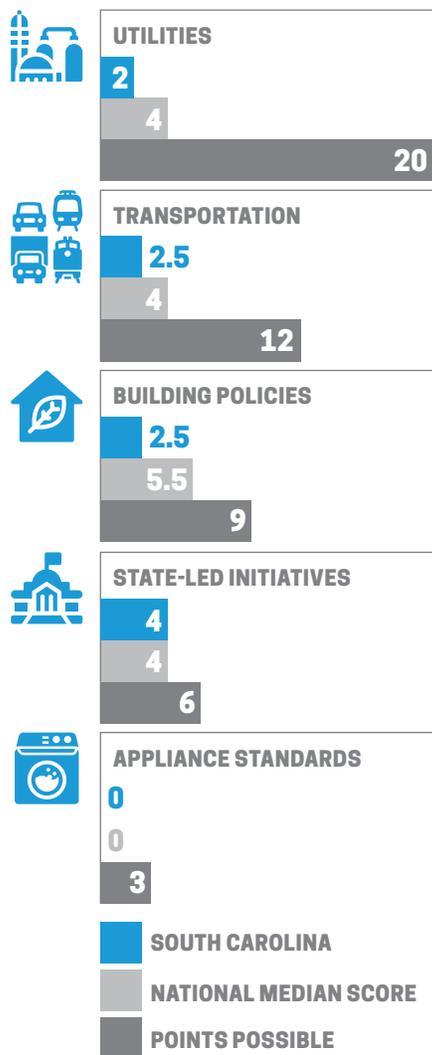


South Carolina

40 

South Carolina ranked 40th in the *2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, the same position as last year. The state scored 11 points out of a possible 50, a half-point more than it earned in 2019.

South Carolina has room for improvement across multiple policy areas. To increase investment in cost-effective energy efficiency, South Carolina could set long-term statewide energy savings targets for all utilities. The state could also maximize achievable savings by designing energy efficiency programs that are responsive to the needs of large industrial customers, or by offering large customers the option to self-direct their program dollars. South Carolina could also expand public building benchmarking requirements to the residential and commercial sectors. To further invest in local economic development, the state could adopt policies that integrate land use and transportation planning.



UTILITIES

Utility spending on electricity and natural gas programs and overall energy savings are below the national median. The state does not have a long-term energy efficiency resource standard, and because it allows large customers to opt out of efficiency programs, many businesses do not contribute to or achieve savings from utility programs, limiting their potential. While Duke Energy's programs in North and South Carolina currently deliver the highest levels of utility savings in the Southeast, approaching 1%, neighboring Dominion Energy's savings are far lower. In September, Duke filed its integrated resource plan (IRP) for the next 15 years in the Carolinas showing a promising increased emphasis on efficiency as part of its pathway to net zero, however much uncertainty remains.

TRANSPORTATION

South Carolina has complete streets legislation and has also completed a comprehensive freight plan, but much can be done to support public transit and sustainable land use planning.

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

Residential and commercial building energy codes reference the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), leaving opportunity to adopt more up-to-date codes. To encourage code compliance, South Carolina conducts training for and outreach to contractors and code officials, although opportunities remain to assess compliance rates and engage stakeholders to strengthen implementation of codes.

STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

The state offers several incentives for energy efficiency improvements in manufactured homes, businesses, industry, and public buildings. The state government leads by example with efficiency targets for public buildings in addition to benchmarking energy use and encouraging energy savings performance contracts. The Energy Office launched the South Carolina Energy Efficiency Roadmap initiative in October 2019. Facilitated by the Duke University Nicholas Institute, the Roadmap will review remaining energy efficiency recommendations from the state's 2016 Energy Plan, identify new opportunities, and develop next steps. The state also launched a new online Energy Saver Tool and website this year to help consumers easily find energy-saving programs.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS

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