Southern states rank at the bottom of energy efficiency in U.S.

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) recently analyzed and ranked all 50 states on eight criteria for energy-efficiency. The Southeast sank to the bottom in virtually all categories, and overall.

Regions of the U.S.

Southeast (SELC's region)	South Central	Northeast	Eastern Midwest	Western Midwest	Mountain	Pacific	Other
Alabama Georgia N.Carolina S.Carolina Tennessee Virginia	Arkansas Louisiana Mississippi Oklahoma Texas	Connecticut Delaware Maine Maryland Massachusetts New Hampshire New Jersey New York Pennsylvania Rhode Island Vermont	Illinois Indiana Kentucky Michigan Ohio West Virginia Wisconsin	Iowa Kansas Minnesota Missouri Nebraska North Dakota South Dakota	Arizona Colorado Idaho Montana Nevada New Mexico Utah Wyoming	Alaska California Hawaii Oregon Washington	Florida

Overall rankings for national regions

Region	Total Score	Total Possible Score	% efficient	Ranking
Northeast	231	484	48%	1
Pacific	103.5	220	47%	2
Mountain	87.5	392	22%	3
Eastern Midwest	62	308	20%	4
Florida	9	44	20%	4
Western Midwest	51.55	308	17%	5
South Central	30.5	220	14%	6
Southeast	***35***	***264***	***13%***	***7***

Rankings for Southeast (SELC's six-state region)

State	Ranking	Total Score
North Carolina	30	8.5
South Carolina	30	8.5
Virginia	38	6
Georgia	38	6
Tennessee	43	4
Alabama	46	2

ACEEE'S 8 ENERGY EFFICIENCY CRITERIA

Note: The maximum number of points a state can earn is 44. The number beside the title of each criterion denotes the highest number of points a state can receive in that category.

Spending on Energy Efficiency Programs (15 possible points)

EXPLANATION*:* Numerous states have put together energy efficiency programs, including low-income energy programs and renewable energy programs. The total amount spent on these programs is a key indicator of state-level support for energy efficiency.
SCORING: $1.50 of spending per capita (**1 point**), $0.75/ 0.50 spending per capita **(½ point**).

State	Per Capita Spending on EE	Score	National Rank
Alabama	$0.10	0	46
Georgia	$0.15	0	38
North Carolina	$0.44	0	30
South Carolina	$1.17	0.5	30
Tennessee	$1.86	1	43
Virginia	$0.00	0	38

Region	Total Score	Average Score	Average State Rank
Northeast	74	6.72	12
Pacific	32.5	6.5	14
Western Midwest	16	2.28	34
Mountain	15.5	1.93	25
Eastern Midwest	8.5	1.21	30
Florida	2.5	2.5	29
South Central	2	0.4	38
Southeast	***1.5***	***.25***	***37***

Energy Efficiency Resource Standards (5)

EXPLANATION: An Energy Efficiency Resource Standard encourages energy efficiency by requiring utilities to meet electric and gas energy saving targets. These can be met through documented energy efficiency savings and/or through purchasing energy efficiency credits.
SCORING: The twelve states that have adopted or are in the process of adopting an EER standard were given scores based on the current status of completion:

- Full operation (**5 points**), Announced (**3 points**), In planning stages (**1 point**).

Southeast

No states have planned or enacted EERS

Region	Total Score	Average Score
Northeast	14	3.5
Pacific	11	2.2
Mountain	10	1.25
South Central	5	1
Eastern Midwest	3	.42
Western Midwest	3	.42
Florida	0	0
Southeast	***0***	***0***

Combined Heat and Power (5)

EXPLANATION: Combined heat and power systems (CHP, aka cogeneration) generate power in the form of electricity and thermal energy from a single fuel source. CHP employs new technology to capture heat that would otherwise be wasted and uses it for heating and cooling purposes.
SCORING: States were scored on their status of installing CHP systems.

- Leading the way with broad implementation (**5 points**), Exemplary interconnection policies (**4 points**), Interconnection rules that include CHP (**3 points**), Proposed interconnection standard (**2 points**), Have adopted at least 1 policy (**1 point**), Have adopted none of the four policies (**0 points**).

State	Score
Virginia	2
North Carolina	2
South Carolina	2
Alabama	1
Tennessee	1
Georgia	0

Region	Total Score	Average Score
Northeast	36	3.27
Eastern Midwest	16	2.28
Mountain	16	2
Pacific	12	2.4
Western Midwest	10	1.42
Southeast	***8***	***1.333***
South Central	5	1
Florida	0	0

Building Energy Codes (5)

EXPLANATION: Enforcing mandatory energy codes for residential and commercial buildings is one way to target energy efficiency.
SCORING: A score of **5** is assigned to states with the most stringent building codes.

State	Score
Virginia	4
South Carolina	4
Georgia	4
North Carolina	3.5
Tennessee	1
Alabama	0

Region	Total Score	Average Score
Northeast	35	3.1818
Mountain	26	3.25
Eastern Midwest	20.5	2.92
Pacific	17	3.4
Southeast	***16.5***	***2.75***
Western Midwest	14.05	2.5
South Central	13	2.6
Florida	4	4

Transportation Policies (5)

EXPLANATION: Several states are pursuing other measures that will increase energy efficiency in the area of transportation. These include state policy initiatives such as

- California's tailpipe emissions standards
- Transit funding

- State fleet requirements
- Exemplary land use policies

SCORING: The states were scored based on the adoption of policy initiatives that encourage transportation efficiency (based on the policies outlined above).

- Adopted tailpipe emission standards (**2 points**), Apportioning about $50 per capita or more into transit funding (**1 point**), Enforcing state fleet policies (**1 point**), Implementing moderate to substantial land use reforms (**1 point**)

State	Score
Georgia	2
Tennessee	1
North Carolina	1
Alabama	0
Virginia	0
South Carolina	0

Region	Total Score	Average Score
Northeast	40	3.63
Pacific	12	2.4
Eastern Midwest	6	.857
Southeast	***4***	***.667***
Western Midwest	3	.42
Mountain	2	.425
Florida	1	1
South Central	1	.2

Appliance and Equipment Efficiency Standards (3)

EXPLANATION: These standards require appliances and equipment to meet minimum energy efficiency levels for, thereby removing inefficient products from the market.
SCORING: The scoring is based on the number of appliance efficiency standards enacted since 2002.

- More than 15 product standards (**3 points**), 6-15 product standards (**2 points**), 1-5 product standards (**1 point**)

Southeast
None of these states have enacted standards since 2002

Region	Total Score	Average Score
Northeast	11	1
Pacific	7	1.4
Mountain	2	.25
Eastern Midwest	0	0
Florida	0	0
Western Midwest	0	0
South Central	0	0
Southeast	***0***	***0***

Tax Incentives (3)

EXPLANATION: State tax incentives for energy efficiency are an important tool in promoting the use of efficient technology. Their purpose is to lower the total cost of efficient products to consumers. They also raise awareness of efficient products, encouraging manufacturers and retailers to produce and market them. There are many different sorts energy-efficient products

supported by tax incentives: commercial green buildings, energy-efficient new homes, home weatherization, energy-efficient equipment, and energy-efficient vehicles.
SCORING: Based on the number of incentive programs offered—each incentive program is worth **1 point**, with a maximum of 3 points.

State	Score
South Carolina	1*
Alabama	0
Georgia	0
North Carolina	0
Tennessee	0
Virginia	0

*enacted an incentive program in energy efficient vehicles

Region	Total Score	Average Score
Mountain	8	1
Pacific	6	1.2
Northeast	6	.5454
South Central	3	.6
Southeast	***1***	***.166***
Eastern Midwest	0	0
Florida	0	0
Western Midwest	0	0

State Lead by Example Programs (3)

EXPLANATION: The energy costs of state-run facilities including office buildings, public schools, colleges, and universities, can account for as much as 10% of a typical government's annual operating budget. Lead by Example programs can reduce energy consumption in these buildings and in turn reduce state energy costs through lowered operations and maintenance costs. In addition, these programs encourage economic development in local and regional communities. The EPA's ENERGY STAR calls on governments to identify cost-effective improvements which can reduce energy use by 10% or more.
SCORING: States can earn a maximum of 3 points.

- State facilities performance criteria (**1 point**), State energy R&D institutions (**1 point**), Met energy savings targets in new and existing state buildings (**½ point**).

State	Score
North Carolina	2
Alabama	1
South Carolina	1
Georgia	0
Virginia	0
Tennessee	0

Region	Total Score	Average Score
South Central	1.5	.3
Northeast	15	1.36
Eastern Midwest	8	1.14
Western Midwest	5.5	.78
Mountain	8	1
Pacific	6	1.2
Southeast	***4***	***.666***
Florida	1.5	1.5