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Energy efficiency is gaining momentum in states traditionally ranked near the bottom of the American Council for Energy-Efficient Economy's (ACEEE) annual State Energy Efficiency Scorecard. While these states must address numerous barriers to energy efficiency, a real window of opportunity exists to move efficiency forward, according to a new report, Opportunity Knocks: Examining Low-Ranking States in the State Energy Efficiency Scorecard (<http://aceee.org/research-report/e126>), released by ACEEE.

The report draws on a series of in-depth interviews with stakeholders in states ranked in the bottom ten of the State Energy Efficiency Scorecard: Alabama, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming. The findings and recommendations of the report are applicable to numerous other states struggling to advance energy efficiency.

"States are leading the way on energy efficiency, and while some have a head start, this report finds that every state can find ways to save energy," said Steven Nadel, Executive Director of ACEEE and a co-author of the report.

Despite their low rankings in the Scorecard, each of the states examined in the report have successfully improved their energy efficiency in at least some way. Last week Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin signed into law energy efficiency legislation that directs all state agencies and higher education institutions to achieve at least 20 percent improvement in energy efficiency by 2020.

"Up until now, hundreds of millions of dollars each year have been wasted on practices like keeping the lights on in empty government buildings. We can now expect that money either to be returned to taxpayers or to fund core services like education, transportation, public safety and health care," said Fallin.

Other states are beginning to realize the benefits from energy efficiency. In addition to Oklahoma, Alabama and South Carolina recently passed statewide building energy codes to ensure new homes and buildings are built to save energy from the start. A number of states, notably Kansas, have solid programs in place to plan and finance energy efficiency improvements in state government facilities.

While many more opportunities remain for these states, numerous barriers are holding up progress on energy efficiency. The most notable barrier is the perception that energy efficiency costs more than it is worth.

Electricity Pricing Areas – May 29, 2012

May

On-Peak	Per kWh
West Hub	\$0.04848
NI Hub	\$0.03559

ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
May1- May 31, 2011	\$0.03954
June 1 - June 30	\$0.03851
July 1 thru July 31	\$0.05170
Aug 1 - Aug 31	\$0.04064
Sep 1 - Sep 30	\$0.03058
Oct 1- Oct31	\$0.02968
Nov 1- Nov 30	\$0.02816
Dec 1 - Dec 31	\$0.02971
Jan 1 -Jan 31	\$0.03043
Feb 1-Feb 29	\$0.02963
Mar 1 thru Mar 31	\$0.02894
April 1 - April 30	\$0.02659
May 1 thru May 28	\$0.02752

Extended Temperature Forecast: Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	82	58	58	59	71
Low	58	52	52	54	58

