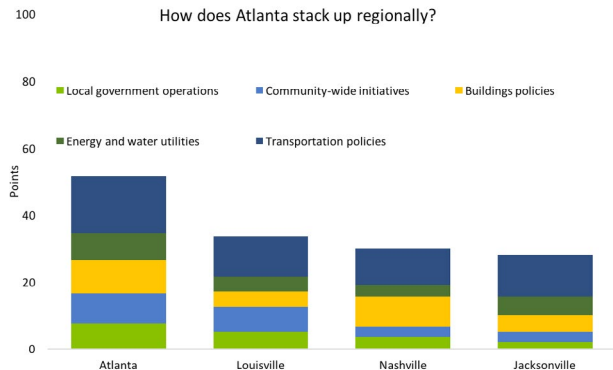


18 Atlanta



Atlanta ranked 18th in the 2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling three spots from 2015. The city earned 51.5 points out of a possible 100, 4 points more than last time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (7.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Atlanta has energy savings and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for local government operations. We could not evaluate progress toward the goals because we did not find sufficient data to assess them. The city has a green buildings requirement for new government buildings and a comprehensive retrofit strategy, and it benchmarks the energy use of more than 90% of municipal buildings. Atlanta also works to increase efficiency in vehicle fleets, public lighting, and equipment procurement.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (9 OF 12 POINTS)

In 2015, the city adopted the Atlanta Climate Action Plan, which establishes community-wide energy savings and GHG emissions reduction goals. Atlanta's GHG emissions goal requires the city to reduce emissions 1.5% annually until 2020, and the city is on track to exceed this target. The city also oversees several urban heat island mitigation initiatives. Atlanta is working with Trees Atlanta to plant 4,000 15-gallon trees, has adopted a private tree protection ordinance, and offers incentives for conservation of private land.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (10 OF 28 POINTS)

Georgia is a home rule state in which municipalities may set building energy codes more stringent than the state codes. Atlanta has not made any adjustments to the state building codes. The city has encouraged energy efficiency in buildings by other means, including a green building ordinance, an energy and water audit requirement, and property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing. In 2015, Atlanta passed an ordinance requiring owners of large commercial buildings to benchmark and report their energy and water use.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (8 OF 20 POINTS)

The utilities serving Atlanta can improve their scores for efficiency spending and savings. While Georgia Power reported some spending and savings on efficiency, we could not determine if Atlanta Gas Light invests in energy efficiency. Atlanta scored strongly for efficiency efforts in water services, earning full credit for having a water savings goal, pursuing efficiency strategies at water utilities, and developing the *Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan*.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (17 OF 30 POINTS)

The Climate Action Plan provides an overarching target to reduce transportation-related GHG emissions and outlines strategies that include design-oriented approaches and expansions of alternate transportation modes. Connect Atlanta is a comprehensive transportation plan that includes goals to double the number of bike lanes and improve transit reach. Atlanta has formalized zoning codes to encourage transit-oriented development and uses incentives to encourage the development of affordable housing in transit areas.

HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Despite its increase in score, Atlanta fell in the rankings this year because other cities ranked 11th to 20th have significantly improved. The city's higher score and policy developments, notably the adoption of the benchmarking and transparency requirements, show Atlanta's commitment to becoming more energy efficient. Atlanta's largest opportunities for improvement are in buildings policies and energy and water utilities.