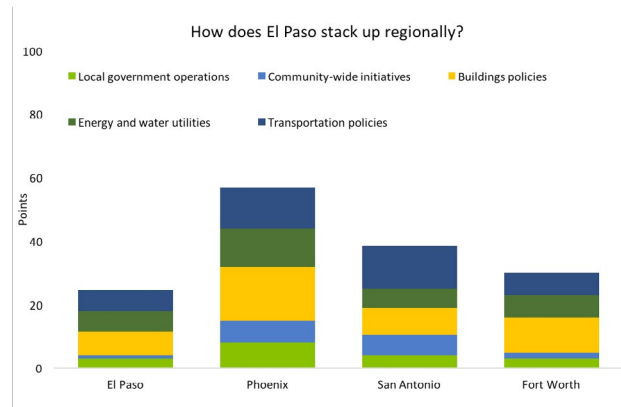
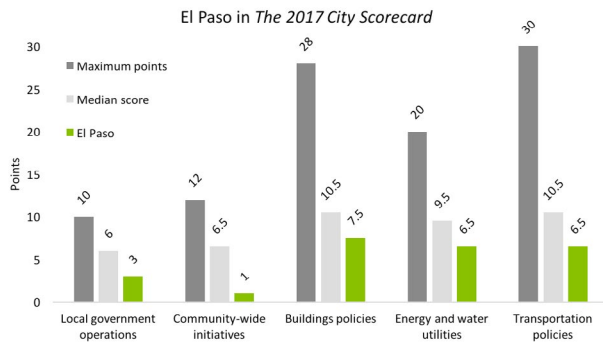


# 44 El Paso



El Paso ranked 44th in the 2017 *City Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, falling 9 spots from 2015. The city earned 24.5 points out of a possible 100, 5 points fewer than last time.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3 OF 10 POINTS)

El Paso has a goal to reduce energy consumption in a selection of municipal buildings through the US Department of Energy’s Better Buildings Challenge, but the city does not have an energy savings goal spanning the entire municipal building portfolio. To further reduce energy consumption and operational costs in public buildings, El Paso could enact an energy efficiency requirement for new buildings, expand energy use benchmarking efforts, and develop a comprehensive retrofit strategy.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (1 OF 12 POINTS)

El Paso is taking steps to mitigate the city’s urban heat island effect by providing development bonuses for permanently protecting wetlands.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (7.5 OF 28 POINTS)

Texas allows local jurisdictions to set their own building codes. El Paso adopted the state code, the 2015 IECC, and has not made any amendments to exceed its stringency. The city encourages energy efficiency in buildings by offering grants to multifamily and commercial construction projects that meet energy efficiency requirements. El Paso has many opportunities to do more, as it does not have a benchmarking policy, an energy audit requirement, or a retrofit requirement.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (6.5 OF 20 POINTS)

The utilities serving El Paso have opportunities to improve data access capabilities and electric and natural gas efficiency spending and savings. El Paso Electric partners with the City on its efficiency programs. Texas Gas Service does not provide natural gas efficiency programs to the city. El Paso scored strongly in efficiency efforts in water services based on its strong water savings goals and green infrastructure strategies.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (6.5 OF 30 POINTS)

El Paso discusses strategies to reduce car dependence in its Livable City Sustainability Plan. The city has a SmartCode overlay that helps integrate transportation and land use. Otherwise, El Paso does not pursue many efficiency strategies in its transportation sector.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

While the city has enacted at least one energy efficiency policy or program in each scoring area, it has room to improve across the board. El Paso could pursue foundational energy efficiency actions, including lead-by-example strategies and dedicated resources for building energy code enforcement. The city has the most room for improvement in community-wide initiatives, which it could address by adopting goals to reduce community-wide energy use or mitigate the urban heat island.