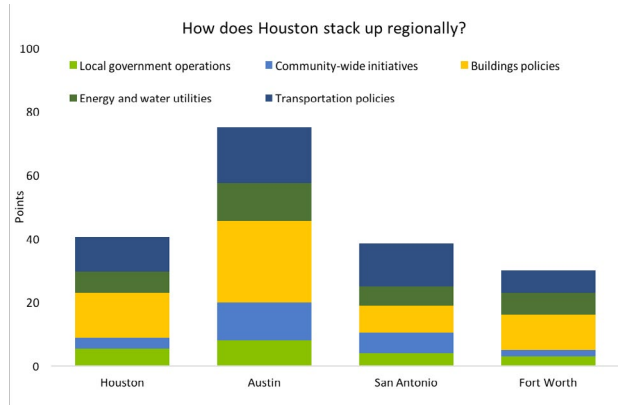
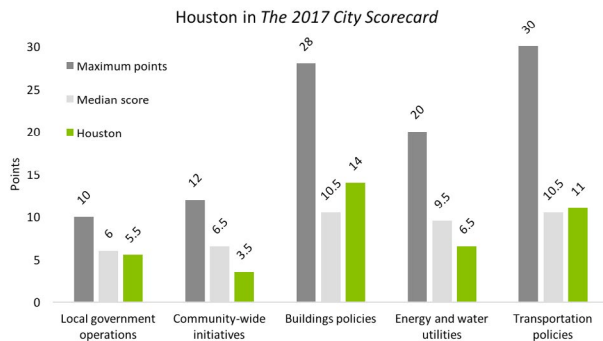


25 Houston



Houston ranked 25th in the 2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling 12 spots from 2015. The city earned 40.5 points out of a possible 100, 10.5 points fewer than last time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (5.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Houston 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. Houston reports sustainability activities annually, benchmarks the energy use of 100% of municipal buildings, and has a comprehensive retrofit strategy.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (3.5 OF 12 POINTS)

As part of its Better Buildings Challenge commitment, Houston is partnering with private building owners to reduce energy use intensity 20% by 2020 in a selection of buildings. The city has a goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 80% below a 2005 baseline by 2050. The city is addressing its urban heat island with a goal to plant one million trees in the next several years.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (14/28 POINTS)

Texas allows jurisdictions to adopt building energy codes that exceed the stringency of state codes. Houston adopted the 2015 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2013 with amendments for residential and commercial construction. The city has incentives for energy-efficient retrofits. Property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing is available to commercial and multifamily building owners. The city has room to do more as it does not have audit, retrofit, or benchmarking requirements.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (6.5/20 POINTS)

CenterPoint Energy has low budgets and savings from energy efficiency programs. CenterPoint did not report any natural gas efficiency program spending or savings, and received only partial credit for its electric efficiency spending. It offers low-income programs and comprehensive multifamily efficiency programs.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (11/30 POINTS)

Houston has a complete streets policy and car- and bike-sharing services to encourage multiple modes of transportation. The city requires that tax increment reinvestment zone funds be directed to development of affordable units along transit lines. Houston does not have a sustainable transportation plan or targets for the use of multiple modes of transportation or reductions in transportation-related GHG emissions.

HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Houston dropped in the rankings because of lower scores in local government operations, transportation policies, and energy and water utilities, based on a combination of City Scorecard methodology improvements and changes in policy activity. Houston can improve its score by improving in each policy area. It has the most room for growth in transportation policies and energy and water utilities.