20 Orlando



Orlando ranked 20th in the 2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard, gaining 10 spots from 2015. The city earned 45.5 points out of a possible 100, 12 points more than last time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (7 OF 10 POINTS)

Orlando has energy savings and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for local government operations. It adopted a comprehensive retrofit strategy for its public buildings and has benchmarked the energy use of more than 90% of municipal buildings. The city could improve by enacting energy efficiency requirements for new government buildings and its vehicle fleet.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (9 OF 12 POINTS)

Orlando's 2013 Green Works plan includes energy savings and GHG emissions reduction goals. The city has committed to reducing its GHG emissions 2.3% annually through 2018. Orlando is developing a new eco-district and has a city employee dedicated to district energy planning and development. The Green Works plan also includes a goal to increase the city's urban tree canopy to 27% of total land by 2018.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (14 OF 28 POINTS)

Orlando complies with Florida's residential and commercial building energy codes, as required by law. In 2016, the city passed the Building Energy and Water Efficiency Strategy (BEWES) requiring commercial and multifamily buildings larger than 50,000 square feet to track energy use and report results. As part of the BEWES, buildings that score under the national average ENERGY STAR® score must perform an energy audit or retro-commission building systems periodically. The city also started a property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing program for home and business owners in 2016.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (5 OF 20 POINTS)

The energy utilities serving Orlando have room for improvement in efficiency spending and savings. The Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) scored at or near the bottom for electric savings and spending. TECO Peoples Gas earned partial credit for natural gas efficiency spending and no credit for savings. OUC offers low-income and multifamily programs. Orlando earned partial credit for efficiency in water services because of the water utilities' energy efficiency initiatives and water efficiency programs.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (10.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Orlando has a transportation plan that outlines future sustainability efforts, but it does not have codified targets to reduce GHG or vehicle miles traveled (VMT). As part of its zoning code, the city has mixed-use zoning districts and a connectivity index requirement, as well as a density bonus to encourage transit-oriented development. Orlando has not reduced minimum parking requirements anywhere in the city. Although the city has a bike-sharing program, it has few policies or plans to reduce travel by single-occupancy vehicles.

HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Orlando rose in the rankings this year with the help of its recently adopted buildings policies. These include a property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing program and the BEWES program, which entails a new benchmarking and transparency policy and an energy audit/retrocommisioning requirement. Along with the progress of other cities ranked 11th to 20th overall. Orlando's advances show that new energy efficiency leaders are continuing to emerge. The city can further improve by continuing to make progress on buildings policies and increasing its focus on transportation policies and energy and water utilities.

