San Francisco





San Francisco tied for ninth in the 2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling five spots from 2015. The city earned 70.5 points out of a possible 100, 5 fewer points than last time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (6 OF 10 POINTS)

San Francisco has a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goal for its local government operations. It has benchmarked the energy use of more than 75% of its buildings and has made significant energy efficiency investments in many of them. The city requires energy efficiency for its fleet, streetlights, new buildings, and equipment procurement.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (10 OF 12 POINTS)

San Francisco has adopted community-wide goals for increasing energy efficiency and reducing GHG emissions. To achieve the city's GHG emissions target, the community will need to reduce emissions 1.8% annually through 2017. San Francisco has identified multiple sites for future district energy systems and is assisting in the planning for those facilities. The city has adopted an urban heat island mitigation goal of increasing tree canopy coverage of urban land to 25% by 2030.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (19.5 OF 28 POINTS)

California allows local jurisdictions to adopt codes that are more stringent than the state building code. The San Francisco Building Code requires that all new buildings be 10% more efficient than the minimum state requirements. The Residential Energy Conservation Ordinance requires a minimum set of retrofits at the time of sale for residential properties built before 1978. Commercial buildings larger than 25,000 square feet must have energy audits every five years. San Francisco also has a benchmarking requirement for commercial buildings larger than 10,000 square feet. The city offers commercial and residential property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing through Energy Upgrade California and expedited permitting for green buildings.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (17 OF 20 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, PG&E has moderate efficiency spending and savings. It earned partial credit for electric and natural gas efficiency spending and savings and full credit for its partnership with the city. PG&E offers comprehensive low-income and multifamily efficiency programs. San Francisco earned full credit for data access efforts and policies and a high score for efficiency in water services.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (18 OF 30 POINTS)

San Francisco's transportation plan includes performance targets for reducing GHG emissions. The city has adopted a target of 50% sustainable mode share for all trips. To help meet this goal, the city has a complete streets policy and bikeand car-share programs. The transit system is well funded and accessible throughout the city. The city also sets aside funding for developing affordable housing near transit lines. San Francisco has opportunities to increase freight efficiency and encourage location efficiency through zoning.

HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

San Francisco fell a few spots in the rankings but remains a top-ten city for energy efficiency. Its lower score this year was due to the 2017 Scorecard's de-emphasis of local government operations rather than any backtracking on past policy commitments. The city is a leader for buildings policies and energy and water utilities and performs well in other areas as well. San Francisco could improve its score by making targeted improvements, especially in its transportation policies.

