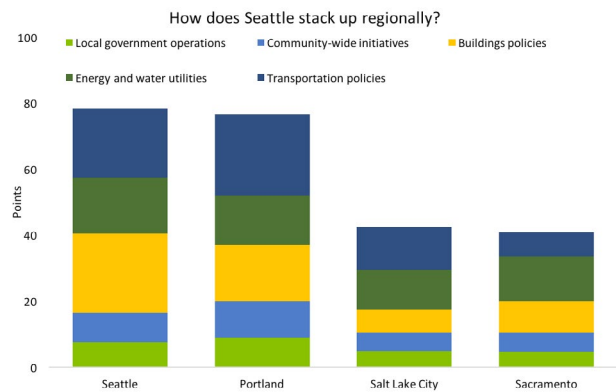


3 Seattle



Seattle ranked third in the 2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard, moving up two positions from 2015. The city earned 78.5 points out of a possible 100, 3.5 points more than last time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (7.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Seattle has an energy savings goal for local government operations. The city annually reports progress toward this target, but it is not projected to meet it. Seattle benchmarked energy use in more than 80% of its buildings and developed a plan to make operational and capital improvements across all buildings. The city requires that its procurement process consider energy efficiency when purchasing of fleet vehicles and equipment.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (9 OF 12 POINTS)

Seattle adopted energy savings and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) goals in its Climate Action Plan. To reach the city's 2050 GHG goal, the community will need to reduce emissions 2.6% annually. The city is also improving community-wide energy efficiency through planning support for district energy systems and aiming to increase tree canopy coverage of urban land to 30% by 2037. Seattle's low-impact development requirements, private tree protection ordinance, cluster subdivisions, and land conservation incentives can mitigate the urban heat island effect.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (24 OF 28 POINTS)

Washington requires municipalities to comply with the state-mandated residential building energy codes, but permits local jurisdictions to adopt more stringent commercial codes. Seattle adopted the 2015 Seattle Energy Code, which is 20% more stringent than ASHRAE 90.1-2013. The city's tune-ups policy phases in a retrofit requirement for nonresidential buildings of at least 50,000 square feet beginning in 2018. The Priority Green program offers expedited permitting to green building projects. Seattle also has a policy requiring buildings larger than 20,000 square feet to benchmark and disclose energy usage data upon request.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (17 OF 20 POINTS)

The energy utilities serving Seattle have moderate to high efficiency spending and savings compared to other utilities. Seattle City Light earned full credit for electric efficiency spending and partial credit for electric savings. Puget Sound Energy earned partial credit for natural gas efficiency spending and savings. Both utilities offer comprehensive programs for low-income and multifamily households. Seattle earned full credit for data access and a high score for water efficiency.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (21 OF 30 POINTS)

Seattle has multiple transportation plans that address sustainability, mode shift, and location efficiency. It has codified goals to reduce oil use by half and ensure that 30% of registered vehicles are electric by 2030. Seattle's zoning codes encourages compact, mixed-use development with a focus on pedestrian travel. The city also eliminated parking requirements for development within a quarter mile of transit stations. It is committed to increasing modal share, as evidenced by its complete streets policy and goal to reduce passenger vehicle GHGs per mile. Seattle also has a freight master plan and freight mobility program that discuss strategies to reduce GHG emissions from freight.

HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Seattle continues the steady pace of improvement it showed in the 2015 edition. It is one of the leading cities in building policies, transportation policies, and energy and water utilities. It improved its score in part by adopting the Building Tune-ups Ordinance and the 2015 Seattle Energy Code, and can improve its score by further increasing location efficiency. Seattle's good showing across the policy areas positions it as a leader for energy efficiency.