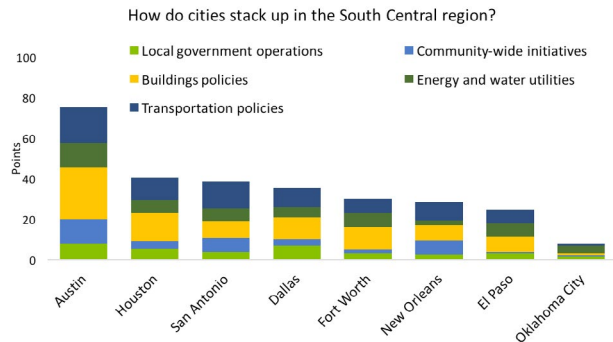
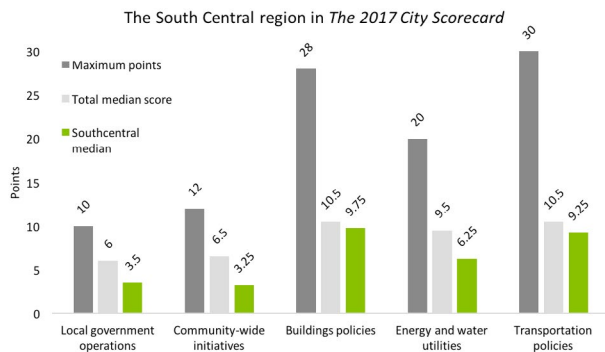


SC South Central



Overall ranks for South Central cities range from 6th (Austin) to 50th (Oklahoma City). South Central cities earned a median score of 32 out of a possible 100 points.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

The median score for South Central cities is 3.5 out of 10 points. Austin and Dallas stand out with scores of 8 and 7, respectively. Several of the cities have energy savings or greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals. All but one of the cities have taken steps to better manage energy use in public buildings by benchmarking energy use or adopting a comprehensive retrofit strategy. All of the cities have taken steps to integrate energy efficiency into their procurement and construction strategies.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

The median score is 3.25 out of 12 points. In the South Central region, only Austin, San Antonio, and New Orleans have formally adopted energy efficiency-related goals. Austin's goals are the most stringent in the region, and both Austin and New Orleans are on track to achieve their goals. Austin and San Antonio provide support for the creation of district energy systems. Five cities have goals and policies that mitigate the urban heat island effect.

BUILDINGS POLICIES

The median score in the region is 9.75 out of 28. Austin tops the list with a score of 25.5. Each city in the region has either a locally adopted or state-mandated building energy code, but the stringency of the codes varies. Six cities have dedicated resources to building energy code compliance, such as dedicating staff for energy code compliance or requiring training for building code officials. All of the cities in the region earned credit for having incentives or requirements for efficient buildings. Austin is the only South Central city to have benchmarking requirements for residential and commercial buildings.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

The region's median score in the policy area is 6.25 out of 20. The utilities serving South Central cities scored fairly low for electric and natural gas efficiency spending and savings. The majority of electric utilities earned only one-sixth of the available points for these metrics. The majority of natural gas utilities did not earn credit for either efficiency spending or savings. All of the South Central cities are served by either a low-income or multifamily efficiency program, and a few cities have strong efficiency efforts in water efficiency services.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

The South Central region has a median score of 9.25 out of 30. Austin leads the region with 17.5 points, and San Antonio follows with 13.5. Only half of the cities in this region earned credit for a sustainable transportation plan or strategies. Only two cities, San Antonio and Dallas, received credit for having specific vehicle miles traveled (VMT) or transportation-related GHG reduction targets. All but one South Central city earned credit for encouraging location efficiency through a zoning code or reduced minimum parking requirements. Seven of the eight cities have complete streets policies. All South Central cities can do more to encourage a shift away from single-occupancy vehicles to more-efficient modes of transportation and can do so by developing a multi-modal transportation plan or improving their transit systems.

HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Austin continues to be the leading South Central city for energy efficiency, ranking sixth overall. It is the only city in the region in the top 20. The region's median score is 32, indicating that the cities in the region have room for improvement. No particular policy area emerges as a clear strength or weakness, meaning there is ample opportunity for South Central cities to improve across all policy areas.