37 St. Louis





St. Louis ranked 37th in the 2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling four spots from 2015. The city earned 31 points out of a possible 100, 0.5 points fewer than last time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3.5 OF 10 POINTS)

St. Louis is developing a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target. The city benchmarks the energy use in a portion of its buildings. St. Louis has pursued energy efficiency retrofits in several local government buildings and upgraded many of its streetlights to LEDs. The city could consider developing an energy-efficient procurement policy and fuel efficiency requirement.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (5.5 OF 12 POINTS)

St. Louis adopted a goal to reduce the community's GHG emissions by 5.3% annually-the most stringent communitywide goal of any in the City Scorecard. The city also offers property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing for connecting buildings to district energy systems. St. Louis has a goal to mitigate the city's urban heat island by planting 16,000 new trees or achieving at least a 15% increase in urban tree canopy cover.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (6 OF 28 POINTS)

The city offers financing for energy-efficient upgrades to residential and commercial buildings. The Building Energy Awareness ordinance, adopted in January 2017, requires large commercial buildings to benchmark their energy and water use beginning in 2018. Missouri allows jurisdictions to adopt their own building energy codes. St. Louis adopted the 2009 IECC, which is not stringent enough to receive points. The city can do more to encourage energy efficiency in private buildings, including pursuing audit and retrofit requirements and adopting a more-stringent building energy code.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (7 OF 20 POINTS)

The energy utilities serving St. Louis have low to moderate efficiency spending and savings. AmerenUE earned partial credit for electric efficiency spending and savings and partial credit for its partnership with St. Louis, Set the PACE St. Louis. Laclede Gas earned no credit for natural gas efficiency spending or savings but earned partial credit for its partnership with St. Louis. St. Louis could increase efficiency efforts in water services as it earned credit in this area for only its stormwater and green infrastructure policies.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (9 OF 30 POINTS)

The City of St. Louis Sustainability Plan includes discussion of strategies to increase transportation efficiency. The city does not have codified targets to reduce transportation-related GHGs or vehicle miles traveled (VMT). It encourages location efficiency through a form-based overlay district. The transit system is also moderately well funded. Other than these efforts, St. Louis has few initiatives to promote efficiency in transportation.

HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

St. Louis earned nearly the same score as it did in the 2015 edition, but fell three spots in the rankings. With many cities' scores improving in the 2017 Scorecard, cities like St. Louis had to make significant improvements to maintain their ranks. The city has taken steps to increase efficiency in each of the policy areas, most notably with the recent adoption of the city's benchmarking and transparency ordinance. St. Louis has room to improve across the board, especially in buildings policies and transportation polices.

