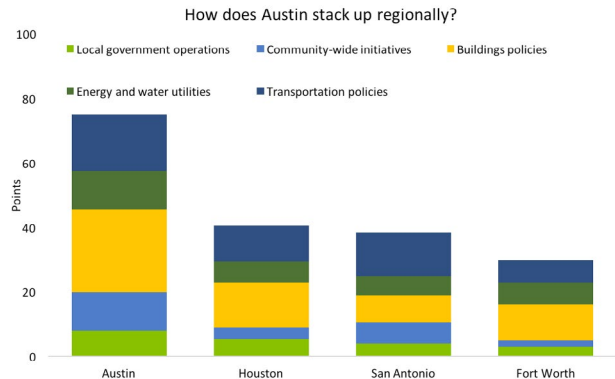
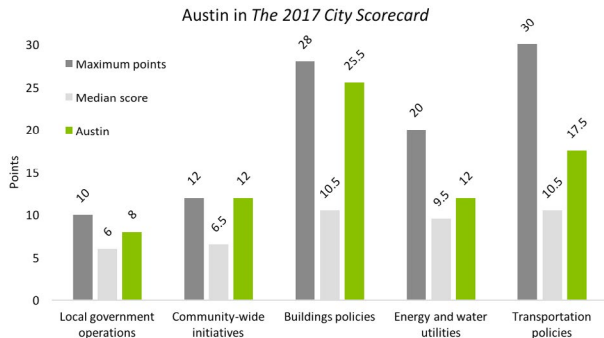


# 6 Austin



Austin ranked sixth in the *2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, gaining three positions compared to 2015. The city earned 75 points out of a possible 100, 12.5 points more than last time.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (8 OF 10 POINTS)

Austin has a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goal for local government operations, but does not have an energy savings goal. We could not evaluate progress toward the GHG goal because data were not available. The city has an energy efficiency requirement for new buildings and benchmarks the energy use of most city-owned facilities. Austin leads by example through efforts to increase efficiency in vehicle fleets, public lighting, and equipment procurement. The city could build on its efforts by developing a comprehensive retrofit strategy for its buildings.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (12 OF 12 POINTS)

The Austin Community Climate Plan includes goals to reduce community-wide GHG emissions and energy consumption. It requires the community to reduce its GHG emissions 2.4% annually through 2020, and the city is on track to meet this goal. Austin plans to develop district energy systems in targeted redevelopment zones with the help of the city's municipal utility, Austin Energy. To combat the urban heat island effect, Austin has established tree canopy coverage goals for the city's neighborhoods.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (25.5 OF 28 POINTS)

Texas allows local jurisdictions to adopt codes that are more stringent than the state building code. Austin's 2015 Energy Code is based on the 2015 IECC with amendments to reduce energy use in commercial and residential buildings. The city has encouraged energy efficiency in buildings through a green building requirement and incentives for energy efficiency upgrades to homes and businesses. The Energy Conservation and Audit Disclosure Ordinance (ECAD) requires commercial buildings to obtain ENERGY STAR ratings and disclose them to buyers. ECAD also requires homes and most multifamily buildings to have an energy audit at time of sale.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (12 OF 20 POINTS)

Austin Energy and Texas Gas could improve their investment in efficiency spending and savings. Both utilities have programs for low-income and multifamily customers, though the multifamily programs are not comprehensive. Austin earned full credit for data access and a perfect score for energy efficiency in water services.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (17.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Imagine Austin, the city's comprehensive plan, outlines multiple strategies for increasing the sustainability of its transportation system, including encouraging more compact and connected development. The city has a GHG emissions goal for transportation, but it is not codified. Austin has car- and bike-sharing programs as well as a Bicycle Master Plan to encourage travel by bicycle. Austin encourages better land use and multiple modes of transportation by eliminating minimum parking requirements in several zoning districts and its adoption of a complete streets policy.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Austin rose in the rankings because of its solid performance in the *2017 Scorecard*. Strong buildings policies make it a leading city in that area. In late 2016, the city adopted the most recent version of the model energy code for residential and commercial buildings and added local amendments to strengthen it. The city's steady leadership in buildings efficiency includes longstanding energy audit, benchmarking, and green building programs. While Austin has made strides in its transportation policies since 2015, it can further improve by focusing on location efficiency, efficient vehicles, and freight system efficiency.