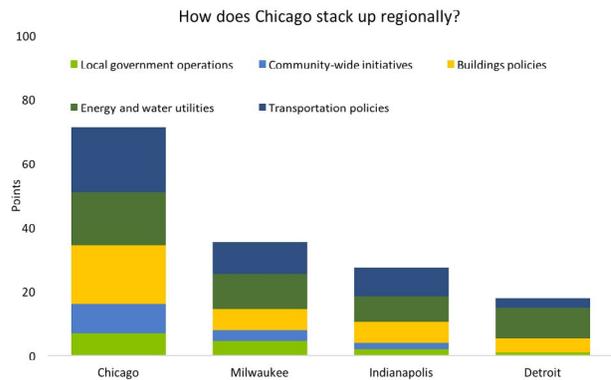


# 7 Chicago



Chicago ranked seventh in the 2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard, falling one spot since 2015. The city earned 71.5 points out of a possible 100, 2 points more than last time.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (7 OF 10 POINTS)

Chicago is working toward energy savings and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for local government operations. We could not evaluate whether Chicago was on track to meet its GHG goal. The city has an energy efficiency requirement for new government buildings and a comprehensive retrofit strategy for existing buildings. It also benchmarks the energy use of the majority of municipal buildings. Chicago leads by example through its efforts to increase efficiency in vehicle fleets, public lighting, and equipment procurement.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE (9 OF 12 POINTS)

Chicago has goals for community-wide energy savings and GHG emissions reductions. To achieve the city's near-term target for GHG emissions, it must reduce its emissions 1.8% each year until 2025. Chicago has a commitment to identify and support the creation of future district energy and combined heat and power facilities, and has urban heat island mitigation goals to add rooftop gardens to 6,000 buildings and plant one million trees by 2020.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (18.5 OF 28 POINTS)

Illinois allows local jurisdictions to adopt building codes that are more stringent than the Illinois Energy Conservation Code. Chicago amended its commercial code to be more stringent than the state code. Incentives encourage energy efficiency in buildings, including an expedited permitting process and a neighborhood improvement program financed through tax increment financing funds. The Chicago Energy Use Benchmarking Ordinance requires large commercial and residential buildings to benchmark and report energy use to the city. Chicago offers training and guidance to help building owners comply with benchmarking requirements.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (16.5 OF 20 POINTS)

The energy utilities serving Chicago have strong investments in electric and natural gas efficiency. ComEd earned full credit for efficiency spending and partial credit for savings. Peoples Gas scored well in natural gas efficiency spending and savings. Both ComEd and Peoples Gas have efficiency programs for low-income and multifamily households. Chicago also scored well for water efficiency targets and stormwater planning.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (20.5 OF 30 POINTS)

The Chicago Forward transportation plan and Sustainable Chicago 2015 plan include a variety of strategies to reduce vehicle miles traveled. To meet its targets, the city has begun adding bicycle lanes, increasing transit ridership, and developing a pedestrian master plan to make the city more bike and pedestrian friendly. Chicago offers purchase incentives for EV cars, streamlines the permit process for EV charging stations, and has more than 100 EV charging stations available for public use. Zoning ordinance incentivizes development of affordable units near transit stations.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The city's slight drop in rank despite its increase in score demonstrates the increasing competition among cities at the top of the rankings. Chicago's higher score and good showing across the policy areas prove its commitment to energy efficiency is not wavering. The city's greatest opportunities for improvement are in buildings and transportation policies. Pursuing audit and retrofit requirements for private buildings and increasing focus on freight system efficiency and location efficiency actions could boost Chicago's score.