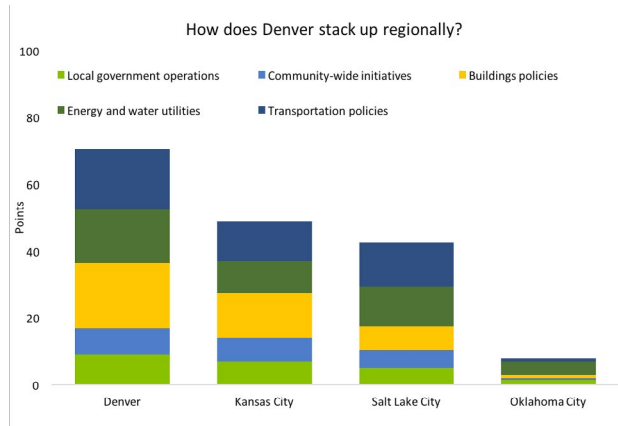
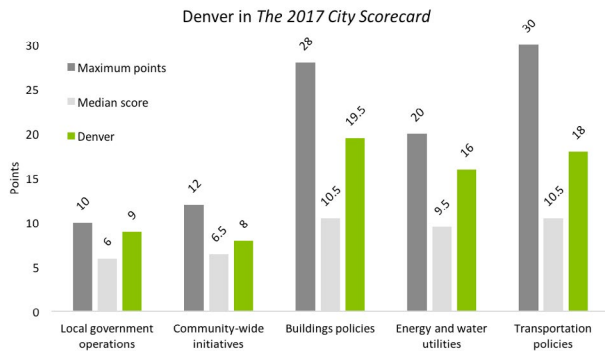


# 9

# Denver



Denver tied for ninth place in the *2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, moving up one spot from 2015. The city earned 70.5 points out of a possible 100, 12 points more than last time.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (9 OF 10 POINTS)

Denver has energy savings and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for local government operations. The city annually reports progress on sustainability efforts. Denver has an energy efficiency requirement for new buildings and a comprehensive retrofit strategy, and it benchmarks the energy use of 100% of public buildings. The city leads by example through efforts to increase efficiency in vehicle fleets, public lighting, and equipment procurement.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE (8 OF 12 POINTS)

Denver adopted a series of 2020 Sustainability Goals that include community-wide goals for energy savings and reductions in GHG emissions. The city is committed to reducing GHG emissions 1.3% annually through 2020. Denver has continually worked to identify and help plan for district energy systems that incorporate combined heat and power. It established an urban heat island mitigation goal in its 2000 Game Plan, committing to a goal of achieving 18% urban tree canopy coverage by 2025.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (19.5 OF 28 POINTS)

Colorado allows local jurisdictions to set their own building codes. Denver has adopted the 2015 IECC with local amendments for commercial and residential buildings. The city encourages energy efficiency in private buildings through financing programs, including the Denver Energy Challenge loan and property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing for commercial projects. In 2016, the city adopted the Energize Denver program, which requires large commercial and multifamily buildings to benchmark and report their energy use starting in 2017. The city has opportunities to encourage energy efficiency in private buildings, as it does not have audit or retrofit requirements for them.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (16 OF 20 POINTS)

Xcel Energy, the utility serving Denver, scored well for efficiency spending and savings for electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Xcel also runs comprehensive low-income and multifamily efficiency programs. Denver earned full credit for data access and a perfect score for energy efficiency in water services.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (18 OF 30 POINTS)

Denver has codified goals to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips to less than 60% community-wide and to reduce the annual per capita GHG emissions from transportation by 60%. The city does not have incentives for location efficiency, but it has a form-based zoning code that eliminates minimum parking requirements for some developments. Denver has a complete streets policy and a bike- and car-sharing program. Its transit system is also well funded. Denver requires new buildings to be equipped with wiring for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and has more than 60 stations available for public use.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

After cracking the top 10 for the first time in the 2015 edition, Denver continued its climb up the rankings. Denver's large improvement is due to new buildings policies, especially the Energize Denver program, and its updated buildings energy codes. The sizable point increase translated to a small gain in rank because of intense competition at the top of the rankings. Denver's progress shows, though, that new leaders are emerging among the top performers and that if other top-ten cities want to maintain their rankings, local policymakers must continue advancing energy efficiency policies. Denver can continue its improvement by making more progress on buildings policies and targeting more transportation policies.