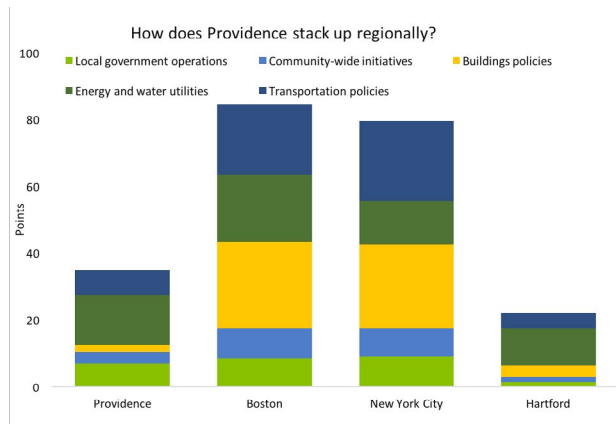
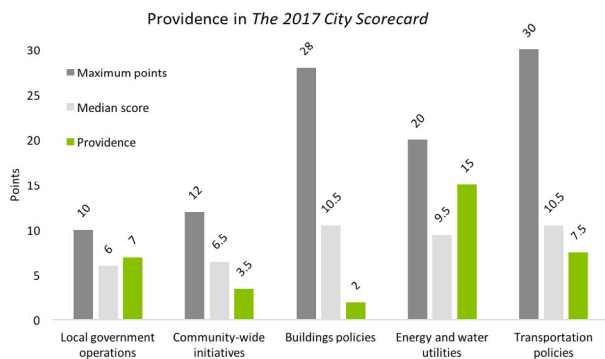


31 Providence



Providence ranked 31st in the *2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, rising one position from 2015. The city earned 35 points out of a possible 100, 3 points more than last time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (7 OF 10 POINTS)

Providence has energy savings and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for local government operations. It has taken steps to better manage energy use in its buildings by adopting a comprehensive retrofit strategy and benchmarking the energy use of all public buildings. The city also works to increase efficiency in its vehicle fleet, streetlights, and new buildings.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (3.5 OF 12 POINTS)

Providence adopted a 2016 goal to become a carbon-neutral city by 2050. The city has also adopted an urban heat island mitigation goal to increase urban tree canopy coverage to 30% of total land. Providence offers development bonuses for private land conservation.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (2 OF 28 POINTS)

Rhode Island requires its local jurisdictions to follow the State Energy Conservation Code for residential and commercial construction. Providence has few initiatives targeting efficiency in buildings, so it has ample opportunity to do more. To improve its score, the city could consider pursuing audit, retrofit, or benchmarking requirements and dedicating more resources to building energy code compliance.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (15 OF 20 POINTS)

National Grid RI achieved amongst the highest utility spending and savings for electric efficiency. It also scored well for natural gas efficiency programs. National Grid offers comprehensive low-income and multifamily efficiency programs. Providence earned partial credit for efficiency efforts in water services, but could do more to increase water utility efficiency.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (7.5 OF 30 POINTS)

The Sustainable Providence Plan includes sustainable transportation strategies, but it does not have explicit vehicle miles traveled (VMT) or transportation-related GHG reduction goals. The city has a complete streets policy. The new zoning update in Providence encourages mixed development in several areas and removes parking minimums downtown. Other than these, the city has few efforts aimed at increasing efficiency in transportation.

HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Providence improved its score from the *2015 City Scorecard* and moved up slightly in the rankings. The city received its highest marks in local government operations and energy and water utilities. Providence has room for improvement across the five policy areas, especially in buildings policies.