W West

The West region in *The 2017 City Scorecard*

Legend:
- Maximum points
- Total median score
- West median

	Local government operations	Community-wide initiatives	Buildings policies	Energy and water utilities	Transportation policies
Maximum points	10	12	28	20	30
Total median score	6	6.5	10.5	9.5	10.5
West median	7	7.75	15.75	14.75	13

How do cities stack up in the West region?

Legend:
- Local government operations
- Community-wide initiatives
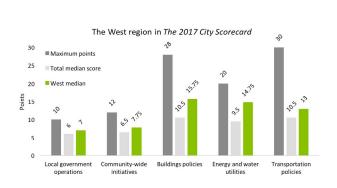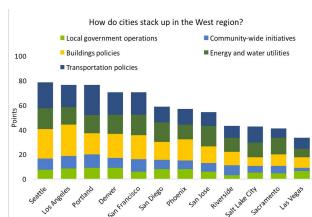- Buildings policies
- Energy and water utilities
- Transportation policies

Overall ranks for cities in the West range from 3rd (Seattle) to 32nd (Las Vegas). Western cities earned a median score of 58.25 out of a possible 100 points. Los Angeles, San Diego, and Phoenix are three of the four most-improved cities from 2015.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

The median score for cities in the West is 7 out of 10 points. Portland and Denver received the highest scores in the region, each earning 9 points. All 12 cities have energy savings or greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals, and 11 have taken steps to better manage energy use in local government buildings by benchmarking energy use or adopting a comprehensive retrofit strategy. Similarly, 11 of the 12 cities in the region have taken steps to integrate energy efficiency in their procurement and construction strategies.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

The median score is 7.75 out of 12 points. All but one Western city have a formally adopted energy efficiency-related goal. Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Seattle have the most stringent goals. Six cities are on track to achieve their goals. Seven cities provide support for the creation of district energy systems. Ten cities have both goals and policies that mitigate the urban heat island effect.

BUILDINGS POLICIES

The median score in the region is 15.75 out of 28, the highest median score of any region. Los Angeles and Seattle earned top marks in the region with scores of 25.5 and 24, respectively. Each city in the region has a locally adopted building energy code or a state-mandated code, but the stringency of the codes varies. All but three of the cities scored well for building energy code compliance and enforcement efforts. Every city earned credit for having green building, energy audit, and/or retrofit requirements. Five cities have benchmarking and transparency policies.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

The region's median score in the policy area is 14.75 out of 20. Utilities serving Western cities scored very well for electric and natural gas efficiency. All of the cities earned credit for electric savings, and almost all earned credit for electric spending, with a few earning full credit. Almost all Western cities earned at least partial credit for natural gas efficiency spending and savings. Western cities are served by the most comprehensive low-income and multifamily efficiency programs, and many earned full credit in the utility data access category. Western cities also scored the highest for efficiency efforts in water services, with many perfect scores.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

Cities in the West have a median score of 13 out of 30, putting them just ahead of the report-wide median score of 10.5. The region has five of the ten highest total scores in transportation: Portland, Seattle, Los Angeles, Denver, and San Francisco. All of the cities in this region either have a standalone sustainable transportation plan or have outlined strategies to increase transportation efficiency. The majority of cities also have codified vehicle miles traveled (VMT) or transportation-related GHG reduction targets. Another strong area for Western cities is their location efficiency strategies, with most earning points in at least one of the three metrics (zoning, removal of minimum parking requirements, and location efficiency incentives). Cities could do more to encourage more efficient vehicle use.

HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Seattle is the new leading city for energy efficiency in the West, achieving a rank of third overall. However, two other western cities, Los Angeles and Portland, trail closely behind and are also clear energy efficiency leaders. The West is also home to three of the four most-improved cities, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Phoenix. Cities from the region generally fared well in the report with a median score of 58.25 and no city ranking lower than 32nd. This combination of improving scores and already high scores suggests that cities in the West will continue to perform strongly in future rankings.