RANK

52 /75

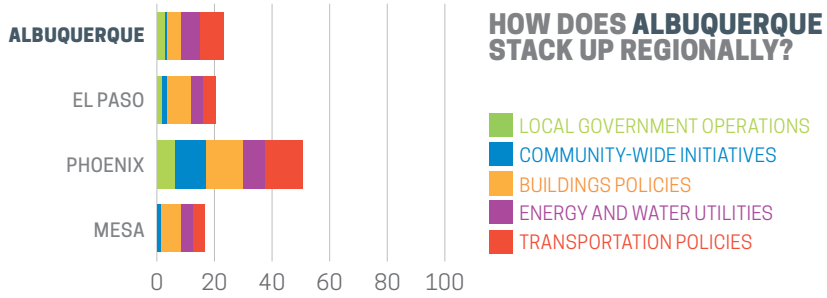
OVERALL SCORE

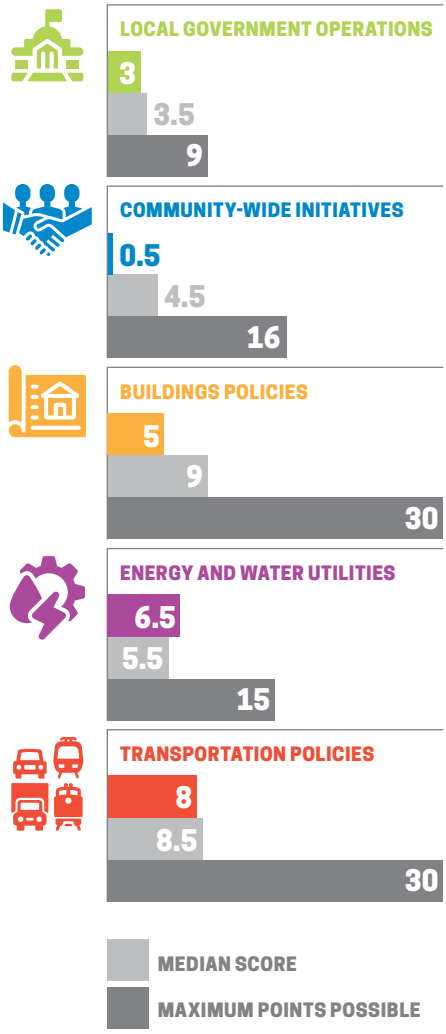
23 /100

2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Albuquerque

Although it has room to improve across the board, Albuquerque performed best in local government operations and energy and water utilities. Starting in 2017, the city embarked on a streetlight retrofit project to achieve a local government energy savings goal; the project contributed to the city's performance in the category. Albuquerque also adopted a renewable energy goal for municipal operations that further bolstered the city's score for local government operations. Low-income and multifamily offerings by Public Service of New Mexico and New Mexico Gas, along with the city's submission of comments to the Public Utility Commission in support of renewable energy, helped the city's performance in energy and water utilities. The city has substantial room to improve across all policy areas—most notably community-wide initiatives and buildings policies—and increase its rank in the next edition.





LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3 OF 9 POINTS)

Albuquerque set energy-reduction and renewable electricity goals for local government operations. The city has set green building standards for new public buildings and has converted 90% of its streetlights to LEDs. Albuquerque benchmarks a limited number of municipal buildings and uses energy performance data to prioritize retrofit projects. The city can build upon this foundation by establishing a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goal, benchmarking more municipal buildings, and incorporating more fuel-efficient vehicles into its fleet.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (0.5 OF 16 POINTS)

Albuquerque's Integrated Development Ordinance includes provisions that encourage private land conservation. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city can set GHG emissions reduction, energy-savings, and renewable energy goals. It can take steps to achieve these goals by involving marginalized communities in planning and implementing initiatives; by supporting clean, efficient distributed energy systems; and by adopting goals to mitigate the urban heat island effect.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (5 OF 30 POINTS)

New Mexico allows jurisdictions to adopt codes more stringent than those mandated by the state. Albuquerque requires commercial and residential buildings to comply with the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). The city promotes clean energy investments in existing buildings through incentive and financing programs, such as the Green Path Program and property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing. The city could further encourage energy efficiency in buildings by implementing a benchmarking and transparency ordinance, enacting energy action requirements, and running or partnering with programs to develop a clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (6.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Public Service of New Mexico and New Mexico Gas show low savings for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Both utilities offer comprehensive programs for low-income and multifamily households. Albuquerque is also taking steps to encourage decarbonization; this includes submitting comments to the Public Utility Commission calling for more renewable energy in the state. Multiple efforts also aim to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (8 OF 30 POINTS)

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan provides the vision for the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area's transportation system. The city has not adopted vehicle miles traveled (VMT) or GHG emissions reduction goals for the transportation sector. Albuquerque adopted a complete streets policy in 2015 through Ordinance O-14-27. Relative to other city systems, Albuquerque's transit system is underfunded and can improve in accessibility. Likewise, the city can work to increase the number of low-income households near high-quality transit, offer incentives to low-income residents for efficient transportation options, and encourage or require the creation of affordable housing units in transit-rich areas.

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