

RANK

9 / 75

2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Austin

OVERALL SCORE

63 / 100

Austin earned top-10 scores for local government operations, community-wide initiatives, and buildings policies, showing its commitment to clean energy is strong. The city tied for the highest score for local government operations due to our projection that it will achieve its local government GHG emissions reduction goal, its use of 100% renewable energy to power municipal operations, and the existence of an energy efficiency goal. The city continued and expanded upon its steady leadership for buildings policies through the adoption of a solar-ready requirement for new homes in 2017. To boost its rank in future scorecards, Austin can take steps to improve its performance in the transportation policies category.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

7.5

3.5

9



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

10

4.5

16



BUILDINGS POLICIES

21

9

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

9.5

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

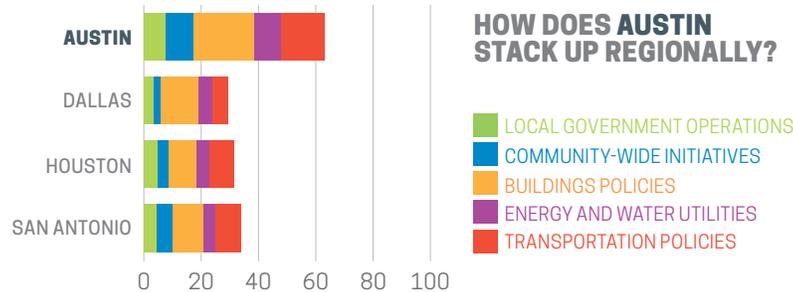
15

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (7.5 OF 9 POINTS)

Austin has adopted energy-reduction, renewable electricity, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for local government operations. ACEEE projects the city will meet its goal to reduce local government GHG emissions 100% from a 2007 baseline by 2020. Austin benchmarks municipal buildings and requires all new construction of public buildings to achieve LEED Silver standards. Austin requires streetlights to comply with above-code standards and is working to convert streetlights to LEDs. Austin works to incorporate fuel-efficient vehicles into its fleet to meet its carbon-neutral fleet goal.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (10 OF 16 POINTS)

Austin's GHG emissions reduction and renewable energy goals provide the vision for its clean energy efforts. ACEEE does not currently project the city will achieve its goal of reducing community-wide GHG emissions 25% by 2020, but we believe it will make substantial progress toward it. The city's municipal utility—Austin Energy—has been involved in the development of district energy, combined heat and power, on-site solar, and community solar systems. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city has adopted a private tree protection ordinance and requires that all new or remodeled commercial buildings install cool roofs.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (21 OF 30 POINTS)

Austin requires commercial and residential buildings to comply with the 2015 City of Austin Energy Code. The city has a number of incentive programs and mandatory policies to encourage clean energy investments in existing buildings. The Energy Conservation Audit and Disclosure Ordinance requires all homes and multifamily buildings that are 10 years and older to have an energy audit performed. Home sellers must disclose results to prospective buyers, and owners of multifamily buildings must disclose results to prospective renters. Multifamily properties must also reduce energy use if the property's energy use is too high. Austin helps to grow the clean energy workforce, including partnering with the University of Texas to fund the Austin Clean Tech Incubator.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (9.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Austin Energy shows moderate electric efficiency savings and the Texas Gas Service shows low natural gas savings. Austin Energy offers comprehensive energy efficiency programs to low-income and multifamily households. In 2017, Austin Energy generated 36% of its electricity from renewable sources. Multiple efforts also aim to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (15 OF 30 POINTS)

The Imagine Austin Plan, Urban Trails Master Plan, and the Austin Climate Plan outline sustainable transportation strategies. The city has not established vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction goals or GHG emissions reduction goals for the transportation sector. Austin has set mode share targets to decrease single occupancy vehicle trips 10% and increase bicycle trips 15% by 2020. Relative to other city systems, Austin can take efforts to both direct investment towards transit services and improve transit accessibility. Austin Energy encourages electric vehicle uptake by offering incentives for charging infrastructure and providing public charging stations.