RANK
25 /75

OVERALL SCORE
41.5 /100

Columbus

Columbus scores best in the energy and water utilities category. This score is due to the city's efficiency efforts in drinking water and wastewater services. The city also performed well in transportation policies; recent actions such as the adoption of the MORPC Sustainable2050 program, the Smart Columbus program's EV purchase incentives, and the Division of Power's EV charging incentives all boosted the city's score. Columbus has several options to improve its rank, most notably in the buildings policies category.

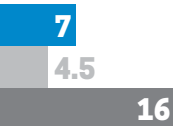**HOW DOES COLUMBUS STACK UP REGIONALLY?**

- LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
- COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES
- BUILDINGS POLICIES
- ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES
- TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
4 / 3.5 / 9

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES
7 / 4.5 / 16

BUILDINGS POLICIES
9 / 9 / 30

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES
8.5 / 5.5 / 15
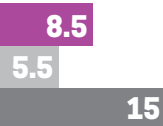
TRANSPORTATION POLICIES
13 / 8.5 / 30
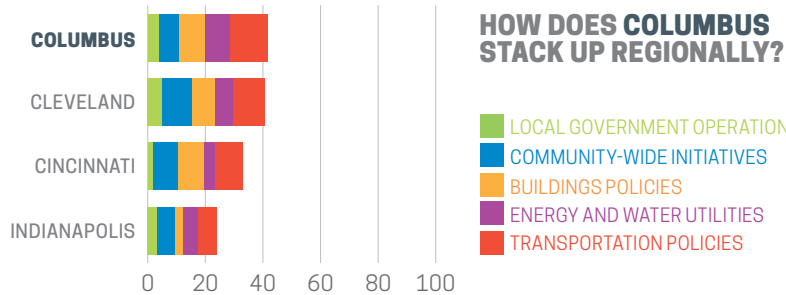
■ MEDIAN SCORE
■ MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (4 OF 9 POINTS)

Columbus has set energy-reduction, renewable electricity, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for local government operations. ACEEE does not currently project that the city will achieve its goal of reducing GHG emissions 30% by 2020. The city requires LEED certification for new city-owned facilities and benchmarks most municipal buildings. Columbus has adopted policies requiring the purchase of energy-efficient vehicles. Columbus can ramp up its local government efforts by establishing a comprehensive retrofit strategy for municipal buildings and converting more streetlights to LEDs.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (7 OF 16 POINTS)

Columbus's GHG emissions reduction and renewable energy goals provide the vision for its clean energy efforts. ACEEE does not currently project the city to achieve its goal of reducing community-wide GHG emissions 20% by 2020, but we believe it will make substantial progress toward it. The city has not been involved in the development of clean and efficient distributed energy systems. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city adopted goals to plant 300,000 trees and increased the urban tree canopy to 27% by 2020.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (9 OF 30 POINTS)

Ohio requires all local jurisdictions to adopt the state building codes. Columbus enforces the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and ASHRAE 90.1-2010 with amendments for commercial buildings; until recently, the residential state code was based on the 2009 IECC. The city advocates for more stringent state codes by testifying at state board meetings. It promotes clean energy investment in existing buildings through financing programs like the property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing program, which offers low-interest loans to commercial property owners for efficiency and renewable energy projects. The city can further support clean energy investments in buildings by passing policies that require energy-saving actions and promoting workforce development.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (8.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, American Electric Power and Columbia Gas of Ohio show low savings for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Both utilities offer comprehensive programs for low-income and multifamily households. Through Columbus's Energy Working Group, the city works with its utilities to meet its energy objectives. American Electric Power does not offer incentives for the construction of new distributed solar or wind systems. Multiple efforts also aim to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (13 OF 30 POINTS)

The Columbus Climate Action Plan sets an efficient transportation vision for the city. Columbus has not adopted quantitative vehicle miles traveled (VMT) or transportation-related GHG emissions reduction goals, nor has it adopted mode shift targets. Coupling VMT or GHG reduction goals with mode shift targets can help guide the city into a sustainable transportation future. Relative to other city systems, Columbus's transit system is underfunded and can improve in accessibility. Columbus has adopted commercial zoning overlays and abolished minimum parking requirements around transit stations. The city can bolster these policies by abolishing minimum parking requirements citywide and offering a greater number of incentives for location-efficient development.

ACEEE
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy