

RANK

38 / 75

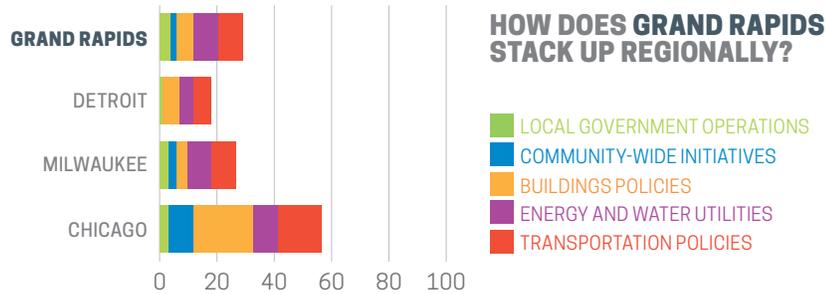
OVERALL SCORE

29 / 100

2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

# Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids performed best in the energy and water utilities category. The city's score was mostly due to Consumers Energy and DTE Energy efficiency savings, their low-income and multifamily offerings, and the participation of both utilities in the Energy Advisory Committee. New policy activity over the last two years helped the city's score in the buildings policies category; in 2017, the city began offering property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing for commercial and multifamily buildings to fund energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water efficiency projects. Grand Rapids can improve its rank and performance across all policy areas, but particularly in local government operation, community-wide initiatives, and transportation policies.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (4 OF 9 POINTS)

Grand Rapids has 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 25% from 2009 levels by 2021. The city benchmarks all municipal buildings in Portfolio Manager. It also has incorporated fuel-efficient vehicles into its fleet. Grand Rapids can ramp up its efforts by setting an energy-reduction goal, converting streetlights to LEDs, and establishing a comprehensive retrofit strategy for municipal buildings.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (2 OF 16 POINTS)

Grand Rapids' 2030 District sets a goal to reduce energy use in the downtown area 50% by 2030. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city can set community-wide GHG reduction, energy-savings, and renewable energy goals. It can take steps to achieve these goals by involving marginalized communities in planning and implementing initiatives and by supporting clean, efficient distributed energy systems.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (6 OF 30 POINTS)

Michigan requires all jurisdictions to comply with state-mandated codes. While Grand Rapids cannot adopt its own building energy codes, it can work to improve the efficiency of its buildings by advocating for more stringent energy codes. The city encourages energy efficiency upgrades in existing buildings through its PACE financing program. The city could further encourage efficiency upgrades in existing buildings by implementing a benchmarking and transparency ordinance, passing policies that require energy-saving actions, and building an equitable clean energy workforce through training programs and inclusive procurement policies.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (8.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Consumers Energy shows moderate savings for electric efficiency programs while DTE Energy shows high savings for natural gas efficiency programs. Both utilities offer comprehensive programs for low-income and multifamily households, and both sit on the city's Energy Advisory Committee to stay at the forefront of the city's energy work. Grand Rapids is also taking steps to encourage decarbonization; this includes submitting comments to the Public Utility Commission. Grand Rapids also works to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants, but more could be done.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (8.5 OF 30 POINTS)

The Green Grand Rapids Report and Vital Streets Plan set a sustainable transportation vision for the city, though Grand Rapids has not adopted quantitative vehicles miles traveled (VMT) or transportation-related GHG emissions reduction goals. The city set a mode shift target to increase walking, biking, transit, and ridesharing trips to 50%. Relative to other city systems, Grand Rapids' transit system is underfunded and somewhat accessible. The city's form-based code includes several transit-oriented development provisions and requires street connectivity. The city also eliminated minimum parking requirements for downtown and transit-oriented development districts. The city can bolster its location-efficient policies by abolishing minimum parking requirements citywide and offering a greater number of incentives for compact and mixed-use development.



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



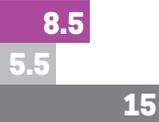
### COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



### BUILDINGS POLICIES



### ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES



### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE