

RANK

43 / 100

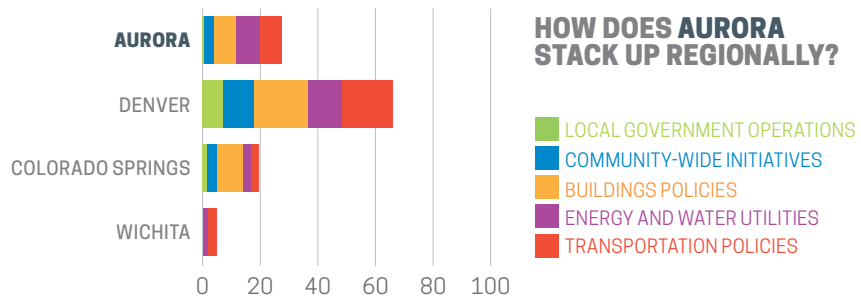
2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Aurora

OVERALL SCORE

27.5 / 100

Aurora had its best performance in the energy and water utilities category, largely due to Xcel Energy's energy efficiency programs and its low-income and multifamily offerings, as well as efficiency efforts in water services. Recent efforts also improved the city's performance, including Aurora's update to parking requirements in the city's zoning code, which will enhance location efficiency and enhanced the city's score in the transportation policies category. Aurora can improve across all policy areas to advance its rank in the next Scorecard, most notably in local government operations and community-wide initiatives.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (0.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Aurora has adopted a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goal for local government operations. ACEEE was unable to project if the city will achieve its near-term climate mitigation goal for local government operations of 10% below 2007 levels by 2025 because insufficient GHG emissions data were available for our analysis. Aurora has installed renewable energy systems on three city facilities. Otherwise, the city has few initiatives to reduce GHG emissions in local government operations. It can ramp up efforts by setting efficiency requirements for the municipal fleet, seeking to convert streetlights to LED, and developing a comprehensive retrofit strategy for municipal buildings.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (3.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Based on past years of emissions data, ACEEE projects Aurora will achieve its GHG emissions reduction goal of 10% below 2007 levels by 2025. Aurora supported the creation of three community solar gardens within the city. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city can adopt citywide clean energy goals, take an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning, and adopt policies and programs to mitigate the urban heat island effect.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (7.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Aurora requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. Due to zoning code amendments, Aurora allows solar energy use throughout the city. Solar energy trainings offered through SolarTAC help grow the renewable energy workforce. Aurora can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its buildings sector by adopting energy efficiency policies (such as benchmarking requirements) for existing buildings.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (8.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Xcel Energy shows moderate savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs and low savings for natural gas efficiency programs. The utility offers multiple low-income energy efficiency programs, a multifamily weatherization program, and incentives for residential and commercial solar installations. Multiple efforts also aim to increase energy and water efficiency in water services. Aurora can encourage more utility-scale renewable energy generation and advocate for better access to utility data.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (7.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Aurora's City Center district encourages mixed-use development, and the city's new Unified Development Ordinance encourages the creation of affordable housing units in transit areas. While the Sustainability Plan sets the vision for an efficient transportation system, Aurora has not yet adopted quantitative goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled/GHG emissions from transportation. Adopting and tracking progress toward these goals would help lay the groundwork for transportation action. The city also can improve the accessibility of and direct investment towards its transit system; ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world. Aurora can promote sustainable transportation within the city by adopting mode shift targets and a complete streets policy.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

0.5

2.5

10



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

3.5

3

15



BUILDINGS POLICIES

7.5

7

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

8.5

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

7.5

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE