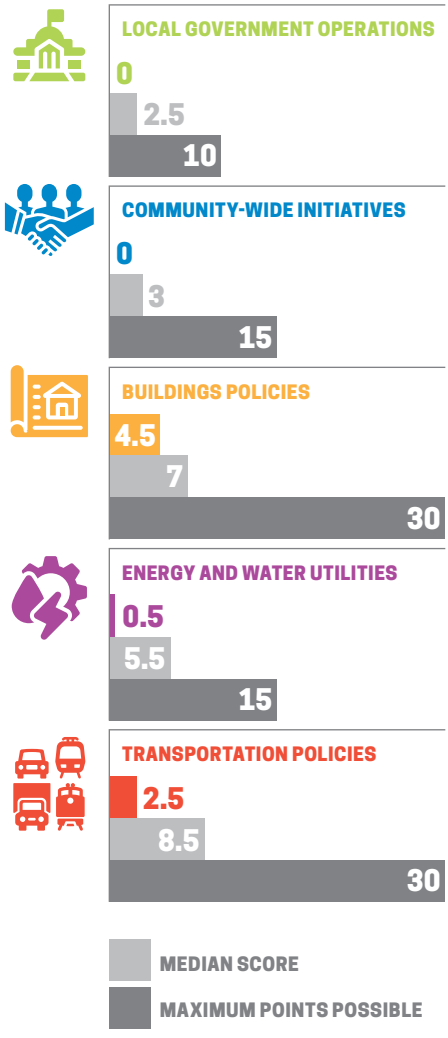
RANK

93 /100

OVERALL SCORE

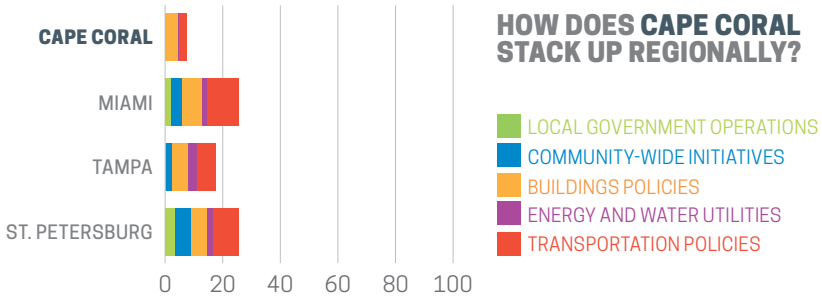
7.5 /100



2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Cape Coral

Although Cape Coral adopted a new zoning code in 2019 that allows for citywide use of rooftop solar, the city still has few clean energy policies. It can ramp up its efforts by increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy usage in its own operations, and can pursue foundational clean energy policies like establishing climate and energy goals for the local government and the rest of the community. The city can work to make its buildings more energy efficient, increase efficiency of energy and water services, and create a sustainable transportation plan to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) citywide. These could serve as stepping-stones to a clean energy future in Cape Coral.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (0 OF 10 POINTS)

Cape Coral has an energy reduction goal for local government operations; otherwise, it has few initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in local government operations. Cape Coral can ramp up its efforts by establishing GHG emissions reduction and renewable energy goals for municipal operations; it also can benchmark municipal building energy use, identify energy efficiency opportunities, and conduct retrofits. Cape Coral also can integrate clean energy into its procurement and construction strategies by setting fleet efficiency requirements, converting streetlights to LEDs, and installing onsite renewable energy systems.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (0 OF 15 POINTS)

The city has few community-wide initiatives aimed at reducing GHG emissions. To inspire future clean energy efforts, Cape Coral can adopt citywide climate and energy goals, take an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning, and adopt a formal policy, rule, or agreement that supports the creation of clean, distributed energy systems within the community.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (4.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Florida requires all jurisdictions to comply with the 6th Edition Florida Building Code, which references the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. Cape Coral does not yet advocate for more stringent state energy codes; however, due to zoning code amendments, it allows solar energy use in all zones. The city can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its buildings sector by adopting energy efficiency policies, such as benchmarking requirements, for existing buildings, offering incentives, and developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (0.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, TECO Peoples Gas and Lee County Electric Cooperative show low savings as a percentage of sales for both natural gas and electric efficiency programs. Neither utility provides low-income or municipal energy efficiency programs, nor does Lee County Electric Cooperative provide customers with renewable energy incentives. Cape Coral can advocate for better access to utility data. The city can also increase energy and water efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (2.5 OF 30 POINTS)

The South Cape District encourages mixed-use development; however, Cape Coral has not adopted a sustainable transportation plan, goals to reduce VMT/GHG emissions from transportation, or mode shift targets. Adopting and tracking progress toward these goals would help lay the groundwork for transportation action. Ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world; the city can improve the accessibility of and direct investment towards its transit system. Cape Coral can further promote sustainable transportation within the city by offering incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles and the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

ACEEE

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy