

RANK

72 / 100

OVERALL SCORE

19.5 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs had its best achievements in buildings policies due to its building energy code adoption and code compliance procedures. However, the city has substantial room to improve across all categories, particularly in transportation policies. To reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transportation, the city can create a sustainable transportation plan to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), ramp up efforts to encourage compact communities, and take steps to boost efficient modes of transportation. Colorado Springs can also pursue foundational clean energy policies like establishing climate and energy goals for the local government and community, and taking steps to reduce energy waste in both municipal and private buildings. These could serve as stepping-stones to a clean energy future.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

1.5

2.5

10



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

3.5

3

15



BUILDINGS POLICIES

9

7

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

3

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

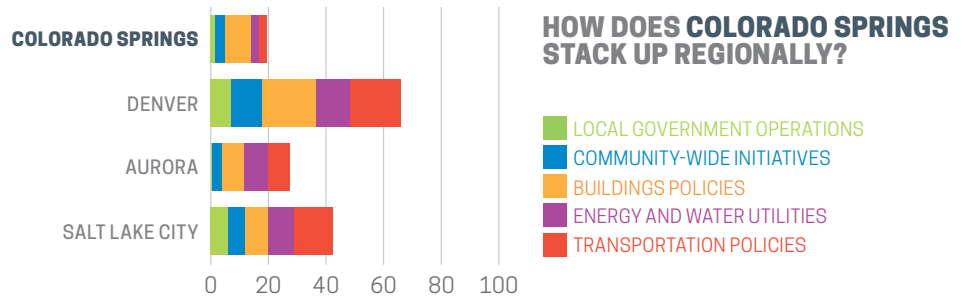
2.5

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (1.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Colorado Springs promotes municipal procurement and contracting from minority- and women-owned businesses. The city also allows flexible scheduling and telework for city employees. Otherwise, Colorado Springs has few initiatives to reduce GHG emissions in local government operations. To guide the city's efforts, Colorado Springs can establish climate mitigation, energy reduction, and renewable energy goals for local government operations. The city can integrate clean energy into its procurement and construction strategies by setting fleet efficiency requirements, seeking to convert streetlights to LEDs, and installing onsite renewable energy systems. Colorado Springs can also benchmark municipal energy use and conduct energy retrofits.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (3.5 OF 15 POINTS)

The city has a goal to increase renewable energy generation to 20% by 2020, and aims to plant 18,071 trees by 2021. Colorado Springs Utilities supports the creation of community solar within the city. To inspire future clean energy efforts, Colorado Springs can adopt citywide climate and energy reduction goals and take an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (9 OF 30 POINTS)

Colorado Springs requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2017 Regional Code, which references the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. The city also has extensive code compliance verification procedures. Colorado Springs Utilities, the city's municipal utility, offers several incentives to spur clean energy investment. Colorado Springs can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its buildings by adopting energy efficiency policies for existing buildings (such as benchmarking requirements) and developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (3 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Colorado Springs Utilities shows low savings as a percentage of sales for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. While the utility does not offer any multifamily energy efficiency programs, it does provide a low-income energy efficiency program. In 2018, the utility produced 9.8% of its generation from renewable resources. The city can work to increase the energy and water efficiency of water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (2.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Colorado Springs offers low-income residents subsidized bus passes. The city 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. Relative to other city systems, Colorado Springs's transit system is underfunded and can improve in accessibility; ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world. Colorado Springs 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, as well as encouraging location-efficient development.