RANK

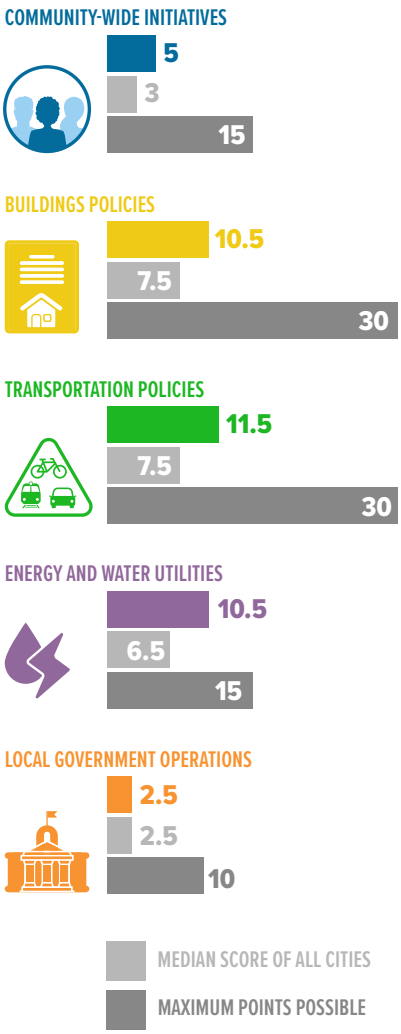
28/100

OVERALL SCORE

40/100

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish and track metrics related to energy equity.
- Adopt policies and programs targeting energy efficiency in existing buildings, such as retrocommissioning and audit requirements and incentives, particularly targeting low-income housing.
- Expand high-quality transit access for low-income residents.
- Increase the deployment of EV charging infrastructure.
- Adopt and track a goal for reduction in VMT or GHG emissions from the transportation sector.



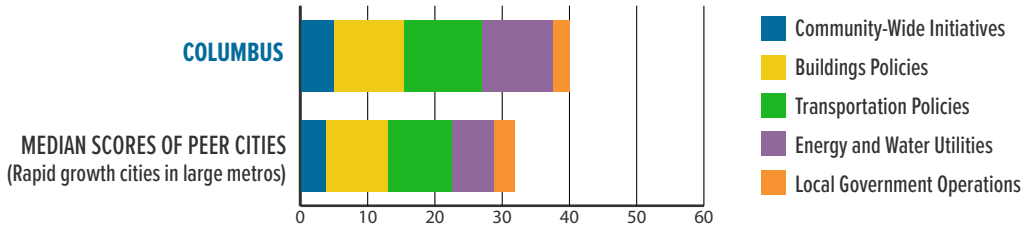
ACEEE
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

2021 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

COLUMBUS, OH

Columbus scored highest in the energy and water utilities category and moved up slightly in the rankings from the previous *Scorecard*. The city has several options to improve its rank, most notably in the community-wide initiatives category.

HOW DOES COLUMBUS STACK UP TO PEER CITIES?



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (5 OF 15 POINTS)

Columbus is on track to meet its goal of a 100% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050. The city entered into an agreement to construct a microgrid that integrates solar energy and energy storage. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, Columbus offers stormwater credits for green infrastructure, has established goals for tree canopy preservation, and requires land conservation with development. The city has not taken an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (10.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Ohio requires all jurisdictions to enforce the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code for residential buildings and the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code for commercial buildings. Columbus advocates for more stringent state energy codes. The city has not adopted solar ordinances or policies requiring buildings to include EV charging infrastructure or be EV ready. The city's Community Energy Advocate training program develops a dedicated energy efficiency and renewable energy workforce. To achieve energy reductions in existing buildings, Columbus requires commercial and multifamily buildings to benchmark energy usage annually. The city also offers incentives such as energy efficiency and renewable energy financing opportunities for commercial property owners and free energy audits.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (11.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Of low-income households in Columbus, 8.5% have access to high-quality transit. With 34.3 ports per 100,000 people, the city has a low number of EV charging station ports available for public use. Freight is a primary focus of the Smart Columbus efforts that came out of the Department of Transportation's Smart City Challenge. This document effectively serves as the city's strategic plan for freight as it highlights the need to improve the efficiency of the freight system through the use of IT applications. Columbus does not yet have a codified VMT or transportation-related GHG reduction target. The transportation entities that serve Columbus have received roughly $69.08 per capita on average in local transit funding annually between 2015 and 2019, a low funding level.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (10.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, American Electric Power (AEP Ohio) and Columbia Gas of Ohio show low savings as a percentage of sales efficiency programs. Both utilities offer a portfolio of low-income programs that includes a comprehensive program, and comprehensive programs for multifamily properties. Columbus provides community-wide energy use information for planning and evaluation purposes and works to facilitate better access to energy use data. The city's active community choice aggregation program provides 100% clean, renewable energy. AEP has set a modest company-wide goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (2.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Columbus has not formally adopted a GHG emissions reduction goal for local government operations. The city integrates clean energy into its procurement and construction strategies by purchasing high-efficiency vehicles and is beginning to convert streetlights to LEDs. Columbus has processes that measure performance against inclusive procurement targets, including a recent solar power purchase agreement. Columbus has installed 858 kW of solar generation capacity on city buildings and uses a comprehensive strategy when retrofitting them.