

RANK

34/100

OVERALL SCORE

36.5/100

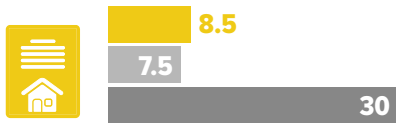
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Publicize community-wide energy data.
- Establish and track metrics related to energy equity.
- Adopt building tune-up and audit requirements for improving the energy performance of existing buildings.
- Expand high-quality transit access for low-income residents.
- Increase the deployment of EV charging infrastructure.

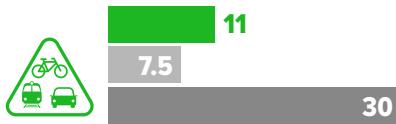
COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



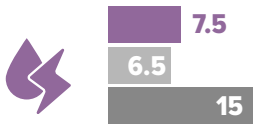
BUILDINGS POLICIES



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

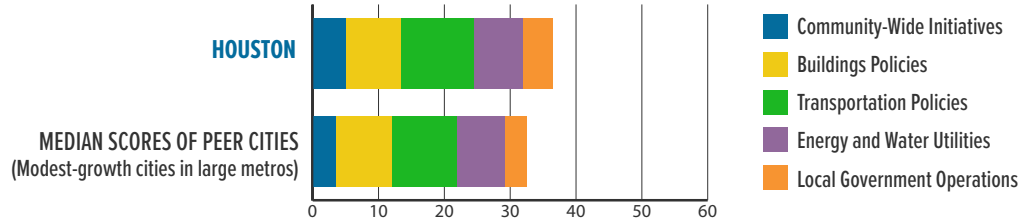


2021 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

HOUSTON, TX

Houston had its best achievements in the transportation policies category and maintained its position in the rankings from the previous *Scorecard*. The city can improve its rank and performance across all policy areas, but particularly in buildings policies.

HOW DOES HOUSTON STACK UP TO PEER CITIES?



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (5 OF 15 POINTS)

Houston's climate change mitigation and renewable energy goals set the vision for a clean energy future. ACEEE was unable to project if the city will achieve its community-wide GHG emissions reduction goal of 40% below 2014 levels by 2030 because insufficient GHG emissions data were available for our analysis. The city supported the creation of a community solar project in Sunnyside, an environmental justice community. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, Houston adopted a goal to plant 4.6 million native trees by 2030.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (8.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Houston enforces the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code with local amendments for commercial and residential buildings, as well as ASHRAE 90.1-2013 with amendments for commercial buildings. New residential buildings are required to be solar ready. The city worked with Houston Community College/Northeast Energy Institute to develop a solar curriculum as part of the Solar Houston Initiative. To achieve energy reductions in existing buildings, the city offers incentives such as PACE financing and expedited permitting for solar panels. It also offers a voluntary commercial benchmarking program.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (11 OF 30 POINTS)

Of low-income households in Houston, 30.7% have access to high-quality transit. With only 25.6 per 100,000 people, the city has a very low number of EV charging station ports available for public use. In 2007, the city of Houston and its regional partners created the Gulf Coast Rail District (GCRD) to promote freight and passenger rail transportation. The GCRD has secured federal grants for construction of grade separations that will improve freight rail movement and reduce vehicle delays, both of which reduce emissions. The Houston Climate Action Plan includes a goal to reduce VMT per capita 20% by 2050. Transportation entities that serve Houston have received roughly \$168.70 per capita on average in local transit funding annually between 2015 and 2019, a moderate funding level.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (7.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, CenterPoint Energy shows very low savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs, and did not report savings on natural gas efficiency programs. The utility offers comprehensive energy efficiency programs including health and safety measures for low-income customers as well as comprehensive multifamily programs. Houston provides community-wide energy use information for planning and evaluation purposes through its GHG emissions inventory. The city has encouraged decarbonization of the electric grid through its Climate Action Plan, which is sponsored by CenterPoint Energy. The utility announced a moderate goal to reduce operational GHG emissions 70% from 2005 baseline levels by 2035.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (4.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Houston has adopted GHG emissions reduction and renewable energy goals for local government operations; however, ACEEE projects that the city will not achieve its near-term climate mitigation goal for local government operations of 40% below 2014 levels by 2030. The city requires the purchase of low-emissions vehicles for its fleet and has converted 98% of its outdoor lights to LED. It also has installed 106 kW of renewable generation capacity on city facilities. Houston's minority, women-owned, and disadvantaged business enterprise program encourages inclusive participation in procurement. This program was applied to the city's renewable energy purchase agreement. Houston benchmarks the energy use of all municipal buildings and conducts retrofits through the city's municipal energy efficiency program.