

RANK

55/100 ↓

OVERALL SCORE

24.5/100

RECOMMENDATIONS

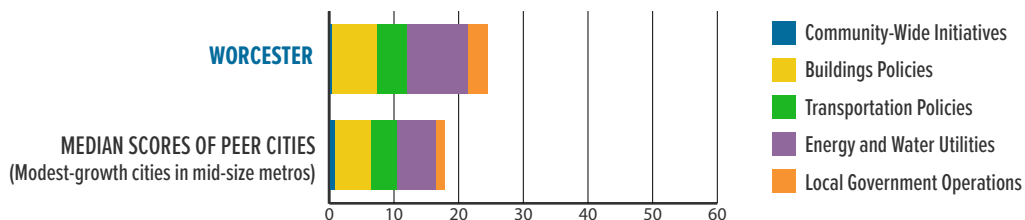
- Adopt location-efficient zoning codes that apply to the entire city.
- Set and track community-wide goals for GHG emissions.
- Adopt policies and programs to mitigate the urban heat island effect.
- Employ more equitable community engagement practices in planning clean energy initiatives.
- Adopt policies and programs supporting 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.
- Adopt and track a goal for reduction in VMT or transportation sector GHG emissions.

2021 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

WORCESTER, MA

Worcester performed best in the energy and water utilities category. The city moved down in the rankings from the previous *Scorecard*, so it has room to improve across all policy areas to advance its rank in the next edition, most notably in community-wide initiatives.

HOW DOES WORCESTER STACK UP TO PEER CITIES?



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (0.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Worcester has adopted a community-wide renewable energy goal but has pursued few other community-wide initiatives. To inspire future clean energy efforts, it can adopt a citywide climate goal, take an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning, and adopt a formal policy, rule, or agreement that supports the creation of community solar and the integration of emissions-reducing technology in distributed energy systems within the community.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (7 OF 30 POINTS)

The city of Worcester enforces the state's energy codes, which are consistent with the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code, and has adopted a state-determined stretch code. Massachusetts requires new commercial and multifamily buildings to adhere to solar-ready requirements. Worcester has not yet advocated for more stringent state energy codes. Its support for the South Middlesex Opportunity Council's Green Jobs Academy helps grow an equitable energy efficiency workforce. The city does not have policies that incentivize or require energy efficiency in existing buildings.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (4.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Of low-income households in Worcester, 0% have access to high-quality transit. With 46.4 per 100,000 people, the city has a moderate number of EV charging station ports available for public use. Worcester has neither a sustainable freight transportation plan in place nor any policies that address freight efficiency, nor has it codified VMT or transportation-related GHG reduction targets. Transportation entities that serve Worcester have received roughly \$17.95 per capita on average in local transit funding annually between 2015 and 2019, a very low funding level.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (9.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, National Grid and Eversource achieved high savings as a percentage of sales for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Through the statewide Low-Income Energy Affordability Network (LEAN), the utilities offer a portfolio of low-income programs including comprehensive programs that include health measures. The utilities also offer comprehensive multifamily energy efficiency programs. The city neither provides community-wide aggregated energy use data nor advocates for better access to utility data for ratepayers. Worcester has a community choice aggregation program that provides the city and residents with flexible options to procure renewable energy. In 2020, National Grid set a moderate target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

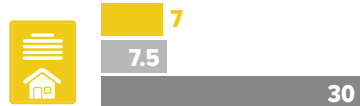
LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3 OF 10 POINTS)

Worcester has established goals to power city operations with 100% renewable energy and achieve carbon neutrality in government operations by 2030. The city commits to purchasing fuel-efficient vehicles and has converted all of its streetlights to LEDs. Worcester also has installed 10.5 MW of solar capacity on city facilities. It has not established inclusive procurement policies or developed a comprehensive retrofit strategy.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



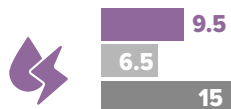
BUILDINGS POLICIES



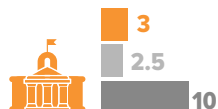
TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



MEDIAN SCORE OF ALL CITIES

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE