

RANK

62 / 100

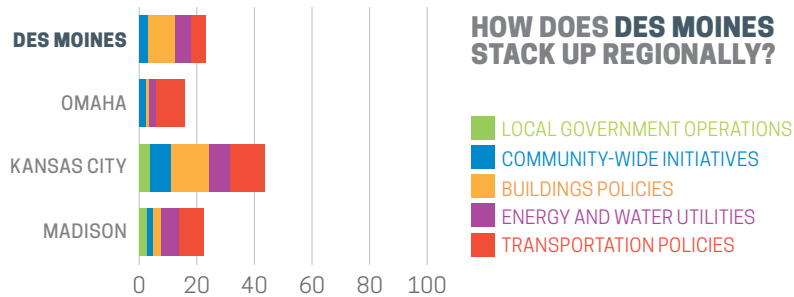
2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Des Moines

OVERALL SCORE

23 / 100

Des Moines had its best achievements in the energy and water utilities and buildings policies categories. Recent efforts helped its score for buildings policies. Most notably, the city's 2019 Energy and Water Benchmarking Ordinance requires all commercial and multifamily buildings greater than 25,000 square feet to benchmark energy usage. The city still has room for improvement across all categories, particularly in local government operations. To increase its score in that category, Des Moines can establish climate and energy goals for the local government and take more steps to reduce energy waste in government buildings.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (0 OF 10 POINTS)

Des Moines has few initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy use in local government operations. The city can ramp up its efforts by establishing municipal energy reduction, renewable electricity, and GHG emissions reduction goals. Des Moines can reduce emissions from its existing buildings by benchmarking building energy use, developing a comprehensive retrofit strategy, and conducting energy retrofits. It can also increase clean energy by setting fleet efficiency requirements and seeking to convert streetlights to LED.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (3 OF 15 POINTS)

Des Moines's GHG emissions reduction goal sets the vision for a clean energy future. ACEEE was unable to project if the city will achieve its near-term, community-wide climate mitigation goal of 28% below 2017 levels by 2025 because insufficient GHG emissions data were available for our analysis. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city can 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 (9.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Des Moines requires all residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code with local amendments. The code is highly stringent when compared to those in effect in other cities. To achieve energy reductions in existing buildings, Des Moines requires benchmarking for commercial and multifamily buildings in accordance with the Energy and Water Benchmarking Ordinance. The city can further ramp up its efforts to reduce GHG emissions by adopting additional energy efficiency policies (such as retrocommissioning requirements) for existing buildings and developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (5.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, MidAmerican Energy shows moderate savings as a percentage of sales for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. The utility offers both low-income and multifamily energy efficiency programs. To ramp up its efforts, Des Moines can advocate for better access to utility data, and can participate in activities that encourage more utility-scale renewable energy generation. The city can increase the energy and water efficiency of water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (5 OF 30 POINTS)

Des Moines has not adopted a stand-alone sustainable transportation plan, but the city is a contributor to The Tomorrow Plan, a regional transportation plan. The city does not have goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled /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, Des Moines'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. The city offers income-eligible residents a subsidized bus pass. Des Moines can further promote sustainable transportation within the city by adopting zoning code amendments that encourage transit-oriented development and encouraging or requiring the creation of affordable housing units in transit-served areas.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

0

2.5

10



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

3

3

15



BUILDINGS POLICIES

9.5

7

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

5.5

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

5

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE