

RANK

33 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Grand Rapids

New policy activity helped the city's score in the buildings policies category; Grand Rapids recently adopted a zoning code amendment reducing barriers to solar energy installation and allowing for solar energy use in all zones. The city had its best performances in the energy and water utilities category, mostly due to savings from efficiency programs and low-income and multifamily offerings by Consumers Energy and DTE, and the city's Energy Advisory Committee. Grand Rapids can improve its rank and performance across all policy areas, but particularly in community-wide initiatives and buildings policies.

OVERALL SCORE

35 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



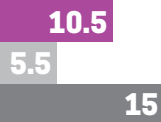
COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



BUILDINGS POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

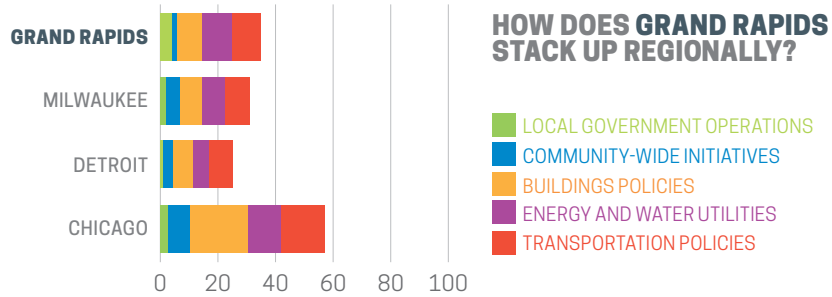


TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (4 OF 10 POINTS)

Grand Rapids benchmarks all municipal buildings and implements energy efficiency upgrades through its asset management program. More than 10% of the municipal fleet is currently made up of energy-efficient vehicles, and the city is in the process of converting all streetlights to LEDs. Grand Rapids has greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and renewable energy goals for local government operations. Based on past years of emissions data, ACEEE projects the city will not achieve its near-term climate mitigation goal for local government operations to reduce GHG emissions 25% below 2009 levels by 2021.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (2 OF 15 POINTS)

Grand Rapids adopted an energy reduction goal through participation in its 2030 District. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city aims to increase the urban tree canopy to 40% by 2021. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city can adopt citywide climate and energy goals, 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 (8.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Michigan requires local jurisdictions to enforce the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code and ASHRAE 90.1-2013 for residential and commercial buildings, respectively. Grand Rapids does not yet advocate for more stringent state energy codes, but, due to zoning code amendments, allows solar energy use throughout the city. To achieve energy reductions in existing buildings, Grand Rapids runs a 2030 District and offers PACE financing. The city can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its building sectors by adopting energy efficiency policies (such as benchmarking requirements) for existing structures and developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (10.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Consumers Energy and DTE show moderate savings as a percentage of sales for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Each utility offers multiple energy efficiency programs targeted at low-income customers and multifamily properties. Grand Rapids has advocated to the Public Service Commission for increased energy efficiency and renewable energy, and is working with Consumers Energy on strategies to achieve its renewable energy goal. Multiple efforts also aim to increase the energy and water efficiency of water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (10 OF 30 POINTS)

Grand Rapids set a mode shift target to increase walking, biking, transit, and ridesharing trips to 50%. The city's form-based code includes several transit-oriented development provisions, requires street connectivity, and eliminated minimum parking requirements for downtown and transit-oriented development districts. While the Green Grand Rapids Report and Vital Streets Plan set a sustainable transportation vision for the city, Grand Rapids has not yet adopted quantitative goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled/ GHG emissions from transportation. Adopting and tracking progress toward these goals would help lay the groundwork for transportation action. Relative to other city systems, Grand Rapids' transit system is underfunded and somewhat accessible.