RANK

91 /100

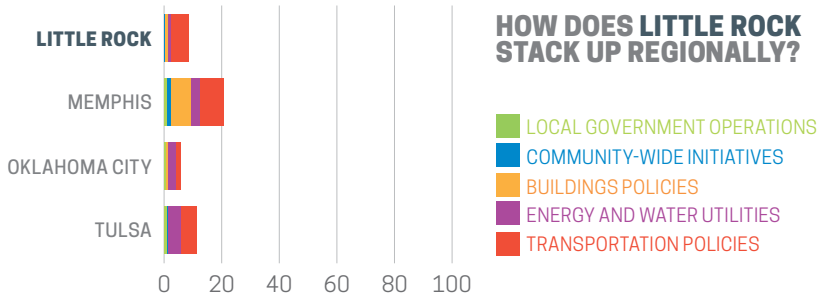
OVERALL SCORE

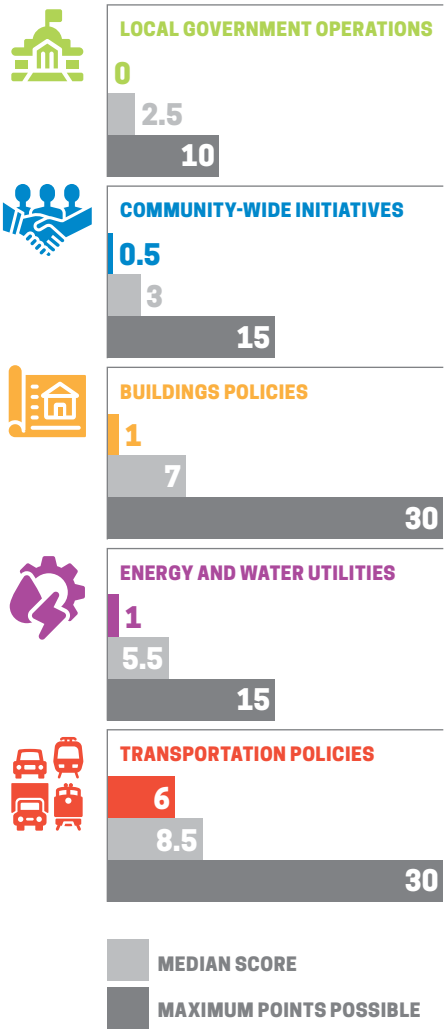
8.5 /100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Little Rock

Though the city had a couple of achievements in transportation policies, Little Rock has few clean energy policies. The city can ramp up its efforts by increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy use in its own operations. Little Rock can pursue foundational clean energy policies such as establishing climate and energy goals for the local government and community; it also can adopt a more stringent building energy code, increase efficiency in energy and water services, and create a sustainable transportation plan to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) citywide. These could serve as stepping-stones to a clean energy future.





LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (0 OF 10 POINTS)

Little Rock 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. Little Rock 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, converting streetlights to LED, and installing renewable energy systems.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (0.5 OF 15 POINTS)

The city has pursued few community-wide initiatives. To inspire future clean energy efforts, Little Rock can adopt citywide climate and energy reduction 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 (1 OF 30 POINTS)

Arkansas requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code, with amendments for residential buildings. Little Rock has the authority to adopt an energy code more stringent than the state's, but has not chosen to do so. Little Rock can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its buildings sector by adopting energy efficiency policies, such as benchmarking requirements, for existing buildings, offering incentives, and developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (1 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Entergy Arkansas shows moderate savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs, and it offers an energy efficiency program for multifamily properties. CenterPoint Energy Arkansas reports low savings relative to other utilities. Neither utility provides low-income energy efficiency programs. The city can encourage utility-scale or distributed renewable energy generation from its electric utility. Additionally, Little Rock can increase energy and water efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (6 OF 30 POINTS)

Little Rock has adopted a comprehensive complete streets policy, and the Cedar/Pine Street Overlay District encourages mixed-use development; however, the city has not adopted a sustainable transportation plan, goals to reduce VMT/GHG emissions from transportation, or mode shift targets. Adopting and tracking progress toward these goals would help lay the groundwork for transportation action. Ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world; the city can improve the accessibility of and direct investment towards its transit system. Little Rock can further promote sustainable transportation within the city by encouraging or requiring the creation of affordable housing units in transit-served areas.

ACEEE

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy