

RANK

18 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

San Diego

San Diego was tied for the top score in the energy and water utilities category due to several factors, including the utility's strong energy efficiency programs and the Local Government Partnership between the city and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E). Recent city efforts, namely its pursuit of community choice aggregation, also helped the city's score. Furthermore, San Diego's development and use of the Climate Equity Index contributed to its score for equity in planning and program delivery. The city can improve its rank in the future by taking additional steps to improve its performance in transportation policies and community-wide initiatives.

OVERALL SCORE

49.5 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

4

2.5

10



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

6

3

15



BUILDINGS POLICIES

12

7

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

13.5

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

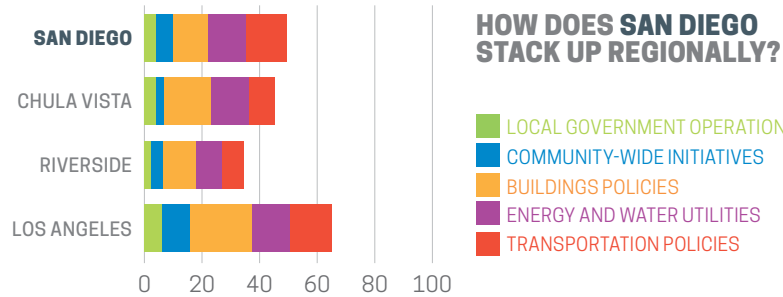
14

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (4 OF 10 POINTS)

San Diego has GHG emissions reduction and clean energy goals for local government operations. ACEEE was unable to project if the city will achieve its near-term climate mitigation goal of 15% below 2010 levels by 2020 because insufficient GHG emissions data were available for our analysis. San Diego benchmarks the energy use of 80% of municipal square footage. It also requires high-efficiency and low-emission fleet vehicles and converts streetlights to LEDs.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (6 OF 15 POINTS)

San Diego's greenhouse (GHG) emissions reduction, energy reduction, and renewable energy goals set the vision for a clean energy future. The city adopted multiple climate goals, including a long-term GHG emissions reduction goal of 50% below 2010 levels by 2035. Based on past years of emissions data, ACEEE projects the city will come close to achieving its near-term, community-wide GHG emissions reduction goal of 15% below 2010 levels by 2020. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, San Diego aims to increase urban tree canopy coverage to 15% of city land.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (12 OF 30 POINTS)

San Diego enforces the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards for commercial and residential buildings. New residential and commercial buildings must adhere to solar- and electric vehicle-readiness requirements. For existing buildings, San Diego requires large commercial and multifamily buildings to benchmark energy use in accordance with the Building Energy Benchmarking Ordinance; the city also offers incentives to spur clean energy investment in buildings. San Diego can do more to reduce GHG emissions from its buildings sector by requiring additional energy efficiency policies, such as performance standards, for existing buildings.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (13.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, SDG&E shows high savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs and low savings for natural gas efficiency programs. In addition to offering the Energy Savings Assistance Program for low-income customers, SDG&E offers three multifamily energy efficiency programs. The city and SDG&E jointly strategize, plan, and administer energy efficiency initiatives through the Local Government Partnership. San Diego engages in various proceedings at the CA Public Utility Commission to advocate for more renewable energy generation. The city is also pursuing a Clean Energy Community Choice Aggregation program. Multiple efforts aim to increase water and energy efficiency of water services.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (14 OF 30 POINTS)

San Diego's Climate Action Plan includes a goal of reducing transportation GHG emissions 23% below 2010 levels by 2035; based on the years for which data is available, the city has made measurable progress towards its goal. It has also set several mode shift targets to encourage increases in transit, walking, and bicycle commuter shares. Relative to other city systems, San Diego can take efforts to both direct investment towards transit services and improve transit accessibility. Although the city can offer more efficient transportation options to low-income residents, it has taken a positive first step by reducing minimum parking requirements for low-income housing built near transit areas. San Diego can further promote sustainable transportation by encouraging energy efficiency in freight movement.