

RANK

68 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Tucson

Tucson had its best achievements in the local government operations and buildings policies categories. Procurement and construction policies related to LED streetlights and efficient fleet vehicles helped its performance for local government operations, while the stringent commercial building energy code and solar-ready requirements did so for buildings policies. Nevertheless, the city has room to improve across all categories, particularly in community-wide initiatives and transportation policies. Tucson can pursue foundational clean energy policies, including establishing climate and energy goals. To reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transportation, the city can create a sustainable transportation plan, ramp up efforts to encourage compact communities, and take steps to boost efficient modes of transportation.

OVERALL SCORE

21 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

3

2.5

10



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

1

3

15



BUILDINGS POLICIES

8.5

7

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

3

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

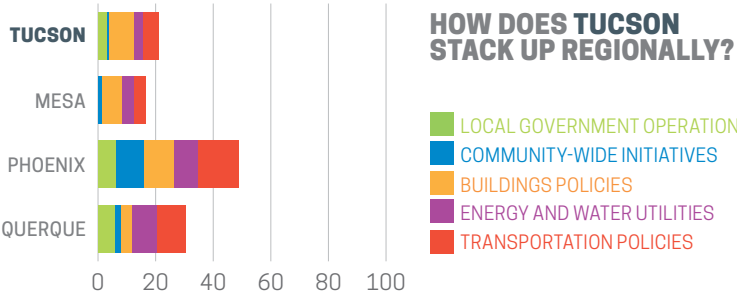
5.5

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3 OF 10 POINTS)

Tucson integrates clean energy into its procurement and construction strategies by installing renewable energy systems on city facilities, converting streetlights to LEDs, and purchasing high-efficiency vehicles when possible. The city also allows alternative work schedules for employees. To take the next step and reduce emissions from its existing buildings, the city can work to benchmark building energy use, develop a comprehensive retrofit strategy, and conduct energy retrofits. Tucson has not yet adopted GHG emissions reduction or clean energy goals for local government operations.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (1 OF 15 POINTS)

Tucson has adopted an energy reduction goal through its participation in its 2030 District but has pursued few other community-wide initiatives. 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)

Tucson requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code. New single- and two-family homes must comply with solar-readiness requirements. New municipal buildings must achieve LEED Silver standards. The state of Arizona prohibits Tucson from adopting requirements that reduce energy use in existing buildings. Tucson can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its buildings sector by creating a voluntary energy reduction challenge for existing buildings and developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (3 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Tucson Electric Power shows moderate savings as a percentage of sales and Southwest Gas shows low savings as a percentage of sales for natural gas efficiency programs. Tucson Electric Power offers energy efficiency programs for low-income customers and multifamily properties, and Southwest Gas provides a low-income program for customers. The city can encourage utility-scale or distributed renewable energy generation from its electric utility. Additionally, Tucson can work to increase energy and water efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (5.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Tucson offers income-eligible residents transit discounts. The city's transit-oriented district overlay encourages location efficiency in developments. Tucson has not adopted a sustainable transportation plan, 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, Tucson's transit system is moderately funded and can improve in accessibility; ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world. Tucson can further promote sustainable transportation within the city by encouraging or requiring the creation of affordable housing units in transit-served areas.