## RANK 99

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

# Wichita

Wichita has few clean energy policies; to jump-start its efforts, the city can focus on increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy usage in its own operations. It also can pursue foundational clean energy policies like establishing climate and energy goals for the local government and the rest of the community. The city can adopt a more stringent building energy code, increase the efficiency of 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) Wichita has not yet adopted greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction or clean energy goals for local government operations. It has few initiatives to reduce GHG emissions and energy use in local government operations. The city can ramp up its efforts by establishing a municipal energy reduction and renewable electricity goal. It can reduce emissions from its existing buildings by benchmarking building energy use, developing a comprehensive retrofit strategy, and conducting energy retrofits. Wichita also can increase clean energy by setting fleet efficiency requirements, converting streetlights to LED, and installing renewable energy systems.

### COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (0 OF 15 POINTS)

Wichita has few community-wide initiatives aimed at scaling up clean energy. To inspire future 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 (0 OF 30 POINTS)**

Neither the state of Kansas nor Wichita requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with any particular energy code. Wichita can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its buildings sector by adopting an energy code for new buildings, offering incentives for clean energy, and developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

#### ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (2 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Evergy shows low savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs; however, it does offer energy efficiency programs for low-income customers and multifamily properties. Kansas Gas Service does not report spending or savings on natural gas efficiency programs. The city can create a partnership with these utilities to develop an energy savings strategy. Wichita also can advocate for better access to utility data or the establishment of data-sharing agreements. The city can encourage utility-scale or distributed renewable energy generation from its electric utility. Additionally, Wichita can continue to increase energy and water efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (3 OF 30 POINTS)

The Community Urban Plan Overlay District encourages mixed-use development; however, Wichita 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. Wichita can further promote sustainable transportation within the city by subsidizing efficient transportation options for low-income residents.

#### **OVERALL SCORE**







15

**MEDIAN SCORE** MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE

30

30

