RANK

50 /100

OVERALL SCORE

26.5 /100

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
4.5
2.5
10

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES
1
3
15

BUILDINGS POLICIES
7
7
30

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES
9.5
5.5
15

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES
4.5
8.5
30

MEDIAN SCORE
MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE

ACEEE
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

Worcester

Worcester performed best in the energy and water utilities category, largely due to strong efficiency programs and low-income and multifamily offerings from utilities Eversource and National Grid. Worcester's next best performance was in local government operations, due in part to the city's Massachusetts Green Community designation; it required the city to adopt an energy reduction goal and to purchase efficient fleet vehicles. Worcester can improve across all policy areas to advance its rank in the next edition of the *Scorecard*, most notably in community-wide initiatives and transportation policies.

HOW DOES WORCESTER STACK UP REGIONALLY?

- LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
- COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES
- BUILDINGS POLICIES
- ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES
- TRANSPORTATION POLICIES
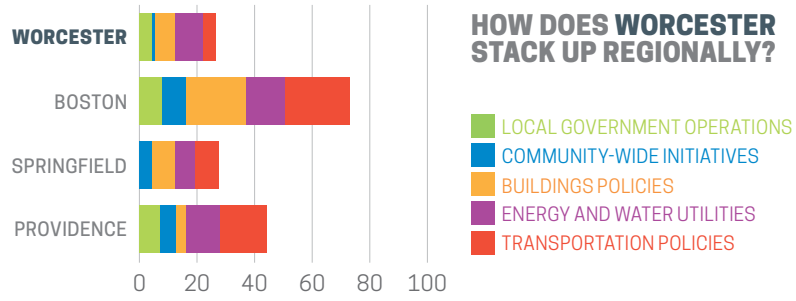
LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (4.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Worcester has an energy reduction goal for local government operations. The city benchmarks the energy use of all municipal buildings and conducts retrofits through an energy savings performance contract. The city also integrates clean energy into its procurement and construction strategies; Worcester commits to purchasing fuel-efficient vehicles, as well as converts streetlights to LEDs and installs renewable energy systems in municipal facilities. To further ramp up its efforts, Worcester can establish climate change mitigation and renewable energy goals for local government operations.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (1 OF 15 POINTS)

Worcester conducted a feasibility study for a microgrid. 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 policies and programs to mitigate the urban heat island effect.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (7 OF 30 POINTS)

Worcester adopted the Massachusetts State Building Code for residential and commercial buildings. The state requires new commercial and multifamily buildings to adhere to solar-ready requirements. Worcester has not yet advocated for more stringent state energy codes. Worcester's support for the South Middlesex Opportunity Council's Green Jobs Academy helps grow an equitable energy efficiency workforce. Worcester can do more to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its buildings sector by adopting energy efficiency policies (such as benchmarking requirements) for existing buildings and further developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (9.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Eversource and National Grid achieved high savings as a percentage of sales for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Both utilities also offer comprehensive energy efficiency programs for low-income and multifamily customers. Worcester has a Community Choice Aggregation program, which was the first launched in the state, and provides the city and its residents with flexible options to procure renewable energy. Worcester can increase the energy and water efficiency of water services and wastewater services.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (4.5 OF 30 POINTS)

To encourage compact communities, the Commercial Corridors Overlay District promotes mixed-use development and lowers minimum parking requirements. While Worcester's Climate Action Plan includes some sustainable transportation provisions, the city does not have goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled or GHG emissions from transportation. Adopting and tracking progress toward these goals would help lay the groundwork for transportation action. The city can improve the accessibility of and direct investment towards transit services; ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world. Worcester can further promote sustainable transportation within the city by offering incentives for the purchase of efficient vehicles and expanding the electric vehicle charger network.