

RANK

63 / 75

2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Aurora

OVERALL SCORE

18 / 100

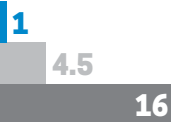
Aurora earned its highest percentage of points in energy and water utilities, largely due to Xcel Energy's energy efficiency programs, low-income and multifamily offerings, and renewable energy incentives. Otherwise we found it had few clean energy policies, leaving Aurora substantial room to improve across the board. To jump-start its efforts, the city can focus on its own operations by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with government buildings. It also can pursue other foundational clean energy policies like developing community-wide energy-savings and renewable energy goals; adopting a more stringent building energy code; and creating a stand-alone sustainable transportation plan to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) citywide. These could serve as stepping stones to a clean energy future in Aurora.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



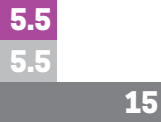
COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



BUILDINGS POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES



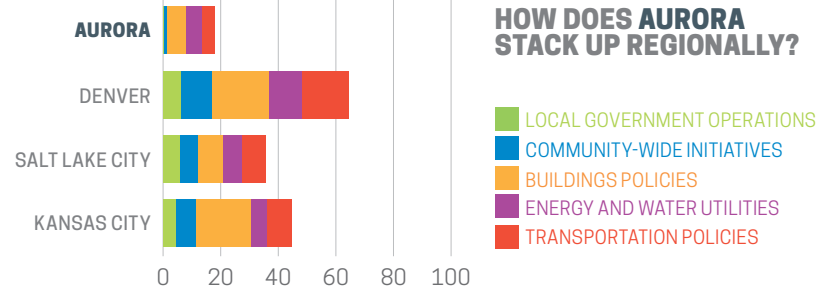
TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE

HOW DOES AURORA STACK UP REGIONALLY?



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (0.5 OF 9 POINTS)

Aurora has energy-reduction and GHG emissions reduction goals for local government operations, but neither are stringent. ACEEE does not currently project that the city will reach its goal of reducing GHG emissions 10% from 2007 levels by 2025. The city requires LEED certification for all new public buildings. Aurora has several options for improving its performance for local government operations, including establishing a renewable electricity goal and working to reduce energy in new and existing municipal buildings.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (1 OF 16 POINTS)

Aurora supports on-site solar energy installations and has a community-wide GHG emissions reduction goal, though it isn't stringent. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city can set energy-savings and renewable energy goals. It can take steps to achieve these goals by involving marginalized communities in planning and implementing initiatives, supporting efficient distributed energy systems, and taking steps to mitigate the urban heat island effect.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (6.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Colorado allows jurisdictions to adopt codes more stringent than those mandated by the state. Aurora requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Aurora supports the Solar Technology Acceleration Center and its training programs to help grow a local renewable energy workforce. The city could further encourage efficiency upgrades in existing buildings by offering clean energy incentives, implementing a benchmarking and transparency ordinance, and passing policies with required energy actions.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (5.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Xcel Energy shows moderate savings for electric efficiency programs and low savings for natural gas efficiency programs. The utility offers comprehensive programs for low-income and multifamily households, and incentives for the construction of new distributed solar systems. Aurora could also improve the energy efficiency of water services.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (4.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Aurora's City Center district encourages mixed-use development. Otherwise the city has few sustainable transportation initiatives. To improve its standing in the next Scorecard, the city could develop a sustainable transportation plan, encourage energy-efficient modes of transportation, and incentivize efficient vehicle and infrastructure uptake.