

RANK

40 / 75

2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Buffalo

OVERALL SCORE

28 / 100

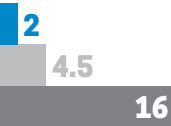
Buffalo did not have an exemplary performance in any one category but scored best for energy and water utilities. Its showing in this policy area is due to the low-income and multifamily energy efficiency programs offered by the utilities serving the city, as well as the city's comments to the Public Service Commission in 2017 to encourage more distributed generation. Its next best performance was in the transportation policies area, due to initiatives such as the adoption of mode shift targets through the Bicycle Facilities Master Plan. Buffalo can improve across all policy areas to advance its rank in the next edition, most notably in local government operations, community-wide initiatives, and buildings policies.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



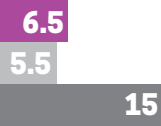
COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



BUILDINGS POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

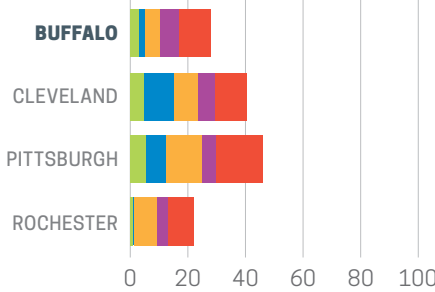


TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



HOW DOES BUFFALO STACK UP REGIONALLY?

- LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
- COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES
- BUILDINGS POLICIES
- ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES
- TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3 OF 9 POINTS)

Buffalo has set an energy-reduction goal for local government operations. The city is working to benchmark all buildings and uses audit results to prioritize building energy retrofits. Buffalo is preparing to convert all streetlights to LEDs. The city can ramp up its efforts by adopting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and renewable electricity goals for local government operations as well as green building requirements for municipal buildings.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (2 OF 16 POINTS)

Buffalo requires the use of green infrastructure on new developments and has adopted a tree protection ordinance. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city can set GHG reduction, energy-savings, and renewable energy goals. It can take steps to achieve these goals by involving marginalized communities in planning and implementing initiatives and by supporting clean, efficient distributed energy systems.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (5.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Buffalo enforces the New York State 2016 Energy Conservation Construction Code, which references the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). The city's solar training programs and inclusive procurement policies help grow an equitable clean energy workforce. The city could further encourage energy efficiency in existing buildings by implementing a benchmarking and transparency ordinance, and passing policies with energy action requirements.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (6.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, National Grid NY and National Fuel Gas show low savings for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Both utilities offer comprehensive programs for low-income and multifamily households. Buffalo is taking steps to encourage decarbonization; this includes submitting comments to the Public Utility Commission. Buffalo also works to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants, but more could be done.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (11 OF 30 POINTS)

Buffalo has not adopted a sustainable transportation plan and the city has adopted neither VMT nor GHG emission reduction goals for the transportation sector. The city's Bicycle Facilities Master Plan sets a mode shift target of 10% by 2025 for cycling trips. To support the fulfillment of this goal, the city can adopt a more comprehensive complete streets policy. Relative to other city systems, Buffalo's transit system is well funded and accessible. The city can bolster its location efficiency by adopting location-efficient zoning codes that apply to the whole city and offering incentives that encourage compact and mixed-use development.