

RANK

14 / 75

2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

# Chicago

Chicago proved to be one of the clean energy leaders for buildings policies, earning a top-10 score in the area. Several factors drove the city's strong performance in the category, including two developments since the last scorecard. The Chicago Rating System expands upon the city's benchmarking ordinance by requiring building owners to post energy performance ratings, bringing further transparency to energy efficiency in buildings. In October 2018, the city authorized a property assessed clean energy program that was launched in 2019. To increase its rank in the next edition, Chicago can improve its performance in transportation policies and local government operations.

OVERALL SCORE

56.5 / 100



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

3

3.5

9



## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

9

4.5

16



## BUILDINGS POLICIES

20.5

9

30



## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

9

5.5

15



## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

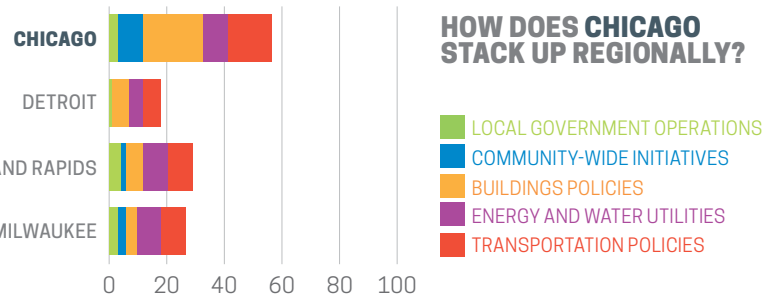
15

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3 OF 9 POINTS)

Chicago has set greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and renewable electricity goals for local government operations. ACEEE does not currently project the city will achieve its goal of reducing GHG emissions 26% from 2005 levels by 2025. The city sets green building standards, benchmarks select city buildings, and retrofits buildings through energy performance contracts. To meet its goal to reduce fuel consumption, Chicago works to incorporate fuel-efficient vehicles into its fleet.

### COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (9 OF 16 POINTS)

Chicago's GHG emissions reduction and renewable energy goals provide the vision for its clean energy efforts. The city has not adopted a community-wide energy-savings goal. ACEEE currently projects that the city will achieve its goal of reducing community-wide GHG emissions 26% by 2025. The city has been involved in the development of on-site renewable energy and community solar systems that benefit low-income communities. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city has adopted goals to install rooftop gardens on 6,000 buildings and plant one million trees by 2020.

### BUILDINGS POLICIES (20.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Until very recently, Chicago enforced the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for residential and commercial buildings. In June 2019, Chicago began enforcing the 2018 IECC. The city drives clean energy investments in existing buildings through incentive programs, as well as mandatory policies. The Chicago Benchmarking Energy Ordinance requires benchmarking of all buildings greater than 50,000 square feet and the Chicago Energy Rating System requires energy performance ratings to be posted onsite and shared at the time of sale or lease. Chicago helps to grow the clean energy workforce through a workforce development provision in its benchmarking policy and through its procurement process for community solar projects.

### ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (9 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, ComEd and Peoples Gas show moderate savings for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Both utilities offer comprehensive programs for low-income and multifamily households. Through Retrofit Chicago, the city works closely with its utilities to promote energy efficiency. Multiple efforts also aim to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants. Based on our analysis of available information, we found that Chicago can do more to encourage the decarbonization of the electric grid.

### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (15 OF 30 POINTS)

The Chicago Forward plan and Sustainable Chicago 2015 Action Agenda set the vision for an efficient and multimodal transportation system. Chicago has not adopted quantitative vehicle miles traveled (VMT) or transportation-related GHG emissions reduction goals, and it has not adopted mode shift targets. Coupling VMT or GHG reduction goals with mode shift targets can help the city inspire future sustainable transportation efforts. Chicago is a leader in encouraging public uptake of electric vehicles. The city administers the Drive Clean Truck, Drive Clean Taxi, and Drive Clean Station to incentivize alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure. Chicago was one of only eight cities to earn points for charging stations powered by renewable energy. Relative to other city systems, Chicago's transit system is accessible, but the city can take steps to direct investment towards transit services.