RANK

8 /75

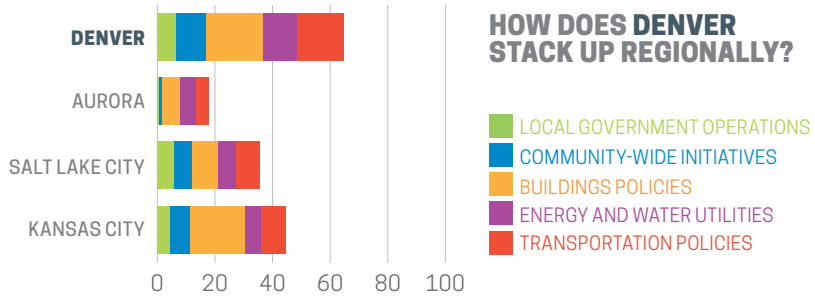
2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

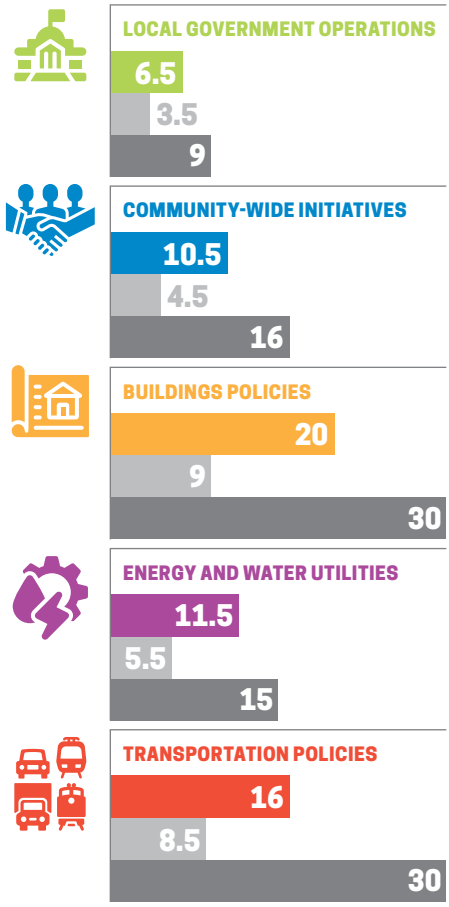
Denver

OVERALL SCORE

64.5 /100

Over the last two editions of the *City Scorecard*, Denver has shown itself to be an established clean energy leader. Since the last edition, Denver has continued its momentum with a series of initiatives. The Green Building Ordinance is designed to drive clean energy investment in buildings, the Energy Futures Collaborative will allow for closer alignment between the city and its utility, and the Mobility Action Plan sets strategies to encourage modes of transport other than personal vehicles. Denver's continued progress shows that new leaders are emerging among the top performers and that if other top cities want to maintain their rankings, local policymakers must continue increasing their ambition. Denver can continue its improvement by making more progress on transportation policies.





LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (6.5 OF 9 POINTS)

Denver has adopted energy-reduction, renewable electricity, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for local government operations. ACEEE projects the city will meet its goal to reduce local government emissions 4% from 2012 levels by 2020. Denver requires all new city construction to achieve LEED Gold certification, benchmarks all public buildings, and retrofits buildings through energy performance contracting. Denver works to incorporate fuel-efficient vehicles into its fleet by requiring the purchase of hybrid or highly fuel-efficient vehicles.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (10.5 OF 16 POINTS)

Denver's GHG emissions reduction, energy-savings, and renewable energy goals provide the vision for its clean energy efforts. ACEEE does not currently project the city will achieve its goal of reducing community-wide GHG emissions 15% by 2020, but we believe it will make substantial progress toward it. The city has been involved in the development of district energy and community solar systems. It has also provided city land for the development of private community solar systems. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city has adopted a goal to increase the city's tree canopy coverage to 18% by 2025.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (20 OF 30 POINTS)

Denver implements the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code with local amendments for both residential and commercial buildings. The city encourages clean energy investments in existing buildings through a number of incentive programs and mandatory policies. Most recently, the city adopted the Green Building Ordinance, which requires large buildings to install a cool roof as well as choose one other compliance option, such as increased levels of energy efficiency or on-site solar. The city partners with Xcel Energy to provide a clean energy workforce development program as part of the Denver Energy Challenge.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (11.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Xcel Energy shows moderate electric efficiency savings and low natural gas efficiency savings. The utility offers comprehensive programs for low-income and multifamily households. Through the Energy Futures Collaboration established in March 2018, the city works closely with Xcel Energy to expedite clean energy projects within the city. Denver is taking steps to encourage decarbonization; the city contributed to multiple PSC rate cases to allow renewable energy to be more easily integrated into the grid. Multiple efforts also aim to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (16 OF 30 POINTS)

The Sustainability Community Mobility Goal and Mobility Action Plan both seek to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicle trips, though the city has not established vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction goals or GHG emissions reduction goals for the transportation sector. Denver established mode share targets to limit single occupancy vehicle trips to 50%, increasing bicycle and pedestrian trips to 15%, and increasing the number of transit commuters to 15%. Relative to other city systems, Denver's transit system is well funded, but the city can take efforts to improve transit accessibility. Likewise, the city can work to increase the number of low-income households near high-quality transit and offer incentives to low-income residents for efficient transportation options.

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