Detroit

Detroit performed best in transportation policies. Recently, the city took several encouraging steps to increase the efficiency of its transportation system, including adopting sustainable transportation strategies through its Strategic Transportation Plan, removing minimum parking requirements in the Central Business District and New Center, and establishing mixed-use zones. Otherwise, Detroit has a limited number of clean energy policies, so it has substantial room to improve across the board. To jump-start its efforts, the city can focus on its own operations by reducing energy waste in government assets and adopting green building requirements. It also can pursue other foundational clean energy policies like developing community-wide energy-savings and renewable energy goals and supporting clean distributed energy systems. These could serve as stepping stones to a clean energy future in Detroit.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (1 OF 9 POINTS)
Detroit benchmarks select buildings and conducts retrofits on some buildings. The city has also converted all streetlights to LEDs. Detroit has several options for improving its performance for local government operations, including establishing climate and energy goals and incorporating more fuel-efficient vehicles into its fleet.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (0 OF 16 POINTS)
Detroit has few community-wide initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG). 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; by supporting clean, efficient distributed energy systems; and by taking steps to mitigate the urban heat island effect.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (6 OF 30 POINTS)
Michigan requires all jurisdictions to comply with the 2015 Michigan Energy Code. While Detroit cannot adopt its own building energy codes, it can advocate for more stringent energy codes. The city uses incentives to encourage clean energy investments in existing buildings. For example, the SmartBuildings Program offers grants and loans to commercial property owners for efficiency upgrades and renewable energy installation. The city could further encourage energy efficiency in existing buildings by implementing a benchmarking and transparency ordinance and passing policies with required energy actions.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (5 OF 15 POINTS)
Compared to other utilities, DTE Energy shows moderate savings for electric efficiency programs and high savings for natural gas efficiency programs. The utility also offers comprehensive programs for low-income and multifamily households. DTE Energy does not offer incentives for the construction of new distributed solar or wind systems. Detroit could also improve the energy efficiency of water services.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (6 OF 30 POINTS)
Detroit’s zoning code encourages mixed-use development, removes minimum parking requirements in two districts, and includes density bonus provisions. Otherwise the city has few sustainable transportation initiatives. To improve its standing in the next Scorecard, the city could adopt vehicle miles traveled (VMT) or GHG reduction goals for the transportation sector, encourage energy-efficient modes of transportation, and incentivize the purchase of efficient vehicles and EV infrastructure.