

RANK

60 / 75

2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

El Paso

El Paso earned its highest percentage of points in buildings policies; the city offers incentives for clean energy actions in existing buildings. Otherwise, the city has few clean energy initiatives across the report. To jump-start its efforts, the city can pursue foundational clean energy policies like developing community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction, energy-savings, and renewable energy goals; pursuing lead-by-example strategies for local government operations; and creating a sustainable transportation plan to reduce vehicle miles traveled citywide. These could serve as stepping stones to a clean energy future in El Paso.

OVERALL SCORE

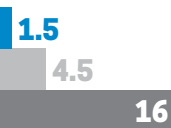
20.5 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



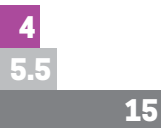
COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



BUILDINGS POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES



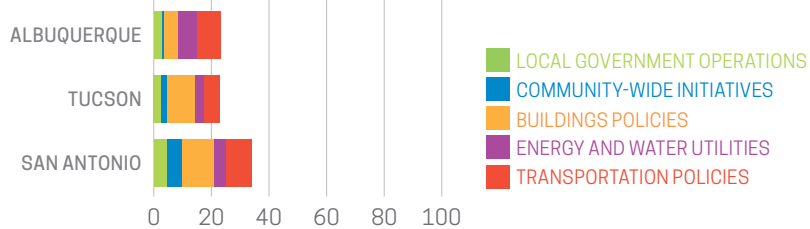
TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE

HOW DOES EL PASO STACK UP REGIONALLY?



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (2 OF 9 POINTS)

El Paso set green building requirements for city building projects and fleet procurement policies for hybrid or alternative-fuel vehicles. The city has converted approximately 50% of streetlights to LEDs. Otherwise, the city has few local government initiatives. El Paso has several options for improving its performance for local government operations, including establishing energy-reduction, renewable electricity, and GHG reduction goals for local government operations and benchmarking municipal buildings.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (1.5 OF 16 POINTS)

El Paso offers streamlined solar permitting and allows solar-by-right accessory use in all land use zones. 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 efficient distributed energy systems, and by taking greater steps to mitigate the urban heat island effect.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (8.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Texas allows jurisdictions to adopt codes more stringent than those mandated by the state. El Paso requires commercial and residential buildings to comply with the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with local amendments. The city promotes clean energy investments in existing buildings through incentive and financing programs, such as the Green Building Grant Program and property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing. El Paso's Resilient Ambassadors program helped grow an energy efficiency workforce by providing volunteers with hands-on training and experience retrofitting buildings. 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 (4 OF 15 POINTS)

Multiple efforts aim to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants. Compared to other utilities, El Paso Electric and Texas Gas Service show low savings for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. El Paso Electric offers comprehensive programs for low-income households. Based on available data, we did not find that El Paso encouraged El Paso Electric to increase its utility-scale or distributed electricity generation from renewable sources; the utility does not offer incentives for the construction of new distributed solar or wind systems.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (4.5 OF 30 POINTS)

El Paso's smart code, Plan El Paso, focuses on walkable development around transit areas. 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.