Fort Worth performed best in buildings policies and energy and water utilities. In 2017, Tarrant County took steps to increase clean energy investments in commercial and multifamily buildings by authorizing property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing, contributing to Fort Worth’s score in buildings policies. The city’s performance in energy and water utilities is due to efforts to increase efficiency in drinking water and wastewater services as well as Oncor’s incentives for distributed renewable sources. The city can improve across all policy areas to advance its rank in the next edition.

Fort Worth

Fort Worth has adopted the North Central Texas Council of Governments’ Clean Fleet Vehicle Policy. The city benchmarks approximately half of government buildings and retrofits select buildings through an energy savings performance contract. Otherwise, it has few initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in local government operations. Fort Worth can ramp up its efforts by establishing energy-reduction, renewable electricity, and climate change mitigation goals, and continue to convert streetlights to LEDs.

Community-Wide Initiatives (1.5 of 16 points)

Fort Worth participates in the Better Buildings Challenge. 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 (9 of 30 points)

Fort Worth requires commercial and residential buildings to comply with the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with local amendments. While the city promotes clean energy investments in existing buildings through its PACE financing program, it could do more by implementing a benchmarking and transparency ordinance, enacting energy action requirements, and building an equitable clean energy workforce through training programs and inclusive procurement policies.

Energy and Water Utilities (7.5 of 15 points)

Compared to other utilities, Oncor and Atmos Energy show low savings for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Both utilities offer comprehensive programs for low-income households. Through the Better Buildings Challenge, the city works closely with its utilities to promote energy efficiency. Fort Worth is also taking steps to encourage decarbonization; this includes submitting comments to the Public Utility Commission. Multiple efforts also aim to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

Transportation Policies (7 of 30 points)

The city has implemented citywide mixed-use zoning districts and district-specific form-based codes in several areas. It can further bolster its location-efficient policies by abolishing minimum parking requirements citywide. Fort Worth has not adopted a sustainable transportation plan and the city has adopted neither vehicle miles traveled (VMT) nor GHG emission reduction goals for the transportation sector. Fort Worth has not set mode shift targets. Coupling VMT or GHG reduction goals with mode shift targets can help guide the city into a sustainable transportation future. Relative to other city systems, Fort Worth’s transit system is underfunded and can improve in accessibility.