

RANK

50 / 75

2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Indianapolis

Although it still has room to improve throughout, Indianapolis performed best in local government operations and community-wide initiatives. The 2019 Thrive Indianapolis plan affected scoring in both categories as it set municipal and community-wide climate and energy goals, included green building requirements for municipal buildings, and had goals to mitigate the urban heat island effect. Indianapolis can improve across several policy areas to advance in rank in the next edition, most notably in buildings policies and transportation policies.

OVERALL SCORE

24 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

3.5

3.5

9



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

6

4.5

16



BUILDINGS POLICIES

3

9

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

5

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

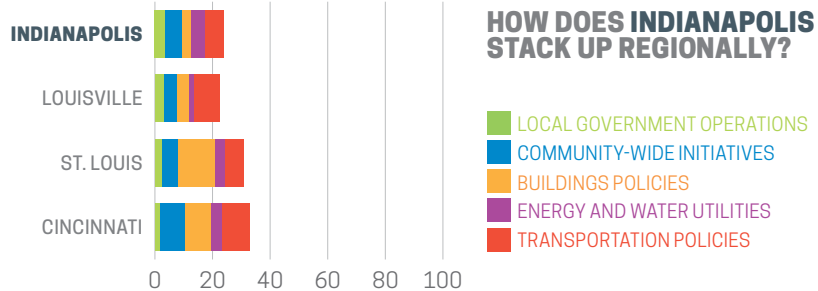
6.5

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3.5 OF 9 POINTS)

Indianapolis has renewable electricity and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for local government operations. ACEEE does not currently project that the city will achieve its goal of reducing GHG emissions 100% by 2050. Indianapolis requires municipally owned buildings to meet LEED standards and benchmarks select buildings. The city works to incorporate fuel-efficient vehicles into its fleet. Indianapolis can ramp up its efforts by establishing an energy-reduction goal, continuing to convert streetlights to LEDs, and developing a comprehensive retrofit strategy for municipal buildings.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (6 OF 16 POINTS)

Indianapolis's GHG emissions reduction goal and renewable energy goal provide the vision for its clean energy efforts. The city has not adopted a community-wide energy-savings goal. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city adopted a goal to plant 30,000 trees by 2025. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city can take active steps in supporting the development of clean, efficient distributed energy systems, such as entering into a power purchase agreement or updating its zoning regulations to promote the installation of these energy systems.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (3 OF 30 POINTS)

Indiana requires all jurisdictions to comply with the Indiana Energy Conservation Code, which references ASHRAE 90.1-2007 for commercial buildings and the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for residential buildings. While Indianapolis cannot adopt its own building energy codes, it can advocate for more stringent energy codes. The city promotes clean energy investments in existing buildings through incentive and financing programs such as the EcoHouse Project, which provides loans to low- and middle-income households for energy efficiency improvements. The city could further encourage energy efficiency in existing buildings by implementing a benchmarking and transparency ordinance, enacting energy action requirements, and running or partnering with programs to develop a clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Indianapolis Power and Light and Citizens Energy Group show low savings for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Both utilities offer comprehensive programs for low-income households. Through Thrive Indianapolis, the city works closely with its utilities to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy. Indianapolis also works to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants, but more could be done.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (6.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Indianapolis's Consolidated Zoning/Subdivision Ordinance encourages mixed-use and compact development. The city also supports programs to subsidize affordable housing in transit-served areas, and adopted a comprehensive complete streets policy. To improve its standing in the next *Scorecard*, the city could develop a sustainable transportation plan, incentivize efficient vehicle and infrastructure uptake, and increase the funding and accessibility of Indianapolis's transit system.