

RANK

42 / 75

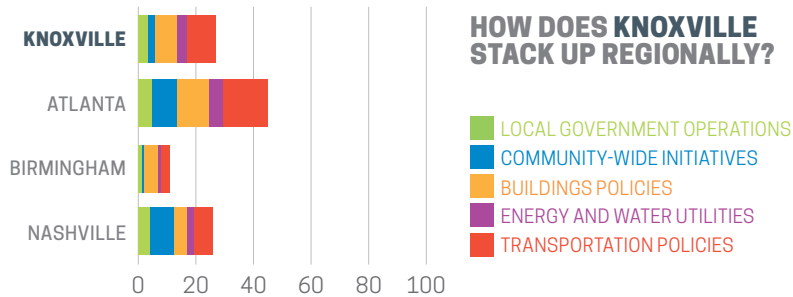
2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Knoxville

OVERALL SCORE

27 / 100

Knoxville performed best in local government operations and transportation policies. The city's enrollment of municipal buildings in the Better Buildings Challenge, its Green Fleet Policy, and outdoor streetlighting retrofit program all contributed to the city's score in local government operations. The recent creation of a fund to increase the number of affordable rental properties near transit-rich areas helped the city's score for transportation policies. Knoxville can improve its performance in all policy areas to advance its rank in the next edition, most notably in community-wide initiatives, buildings policies, and energy and water utilities.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3.5 OF 9 POINTS)

Knoxville has energy-reduction 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 local government GHG emissions 20% from 2005 levels by 2020. Knoxville requires new municipal buildings to achieve LEED certification and benchmarks all municipal buildings. The city is converting streetlights to LEDs. Knoxville can still establish a renewable electricity goal, develop a comprehensive retrofit strategy, and incorporate fuel-efficient vehicles into its fleet.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (2.5 OF 16 POINTS)

Knoxville's GHG emissions reduction goal provides the vision for a sustainable city. ACEEE does not project that the city will achieve its goal of reducing community-wide GHG emissions 20% by 2020. To inspire future clean energy efforts, Knoxville can adopt community-wide renewable energy and energy-savings goals as well as quantitative urban heat island mitigation targets. The city can also take active steps in supporting the development of more efficient distributed energy systems, such as updating its zoning regulations to promote the installation of these energy systems.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (7.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Tennessee allows jurisdictions with home-rule charters to adopt codes more stringent than those mandated by the state. Knoxville requires commercial and residential buildings comply with the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with local amendments. The city promotes clean energy investments in existing buildings through the Blighted Properties Redevelopment Program; it requires projects that receive funding from the project to achieve ENERGY STAR® standards. The Knoxville Extreme Energy Makeover program helps grow an energy efficiency workforce by providing training to contractors who work on installing energy efficiency measures. The city could further encourage energy efficiency in existing buildings by implementing a benchmarking and transparency ordinance and enacting energy action requirements.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (3.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Knoxville Utilities Board (KUB) shows low savings for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. The utility offers comprehensive programs for low-income households. In 2017, KUB generated 10% of its power from renewable sources. Knoxville also works to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants, but more could be done.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (10 OF 30 POINTS)

Knoxville's Energy and Sustainability Work Plan provides the vision for an efficient transportation system; however the city has adopted neither vehicle miles traveled (VMT) nor GHG emission reduction goals for the transportation sector. Knoxville 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, Knoxville's transportation system is moderately funded but can improve in accessibility. The city has location-efficient zoning codes in two districts and its central business district does not have parking requirements. The city can bolster its location-efficient policies by abolishing minimum parking requirements citywide and offering a greater number of incentives for compact and mixed-use development.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

3.5

3.5

9



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

2.5

4.5

16



BUILDINGS POLICIES

7.5

9

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

3.5

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

10

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE