Oakland earned the highest score of the 24 cities new to the 2019 Scorecard. The city performed the best in the local government operations and energy and water utilities categories. Its strong showing for local government operations was due to several initiatives, including its Green Fleet Resolution, Green Building Ordinance, and LED streetlight upgrades. Utility programs and Oakland’s Clean Energy Initiative activity contributed to its high score for energy and water utilities. Oakland has several options for improving its ranking in the future, including increasing its score for transportation policies.

Oakland has renewable electricity and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for local government operations. ACEEE projects the city will meet its goal to reduce GHG emissions 36% from 2005 levels by 2020. Oakland requires LEED Silver certification for new municipal buildings, benchmarks all local government buildings, and retrofits select buildings. The city set energy-efficient lighting standards and has converted approximately 95% of streetlights to LEDs. Oakland works to incorporate fuel-efficient vehicles into its fleet to meet its fuel consumption reduction goal.

Oakland’s GHG emissions reduction, energy-savings, and renewable energy goals provide the vision for its clean energy efforts. ACEEE does not currently project the city will achieve its goal of reducing community-wide GHG emissions 36% by 2020. The city has been involved in the development of microgrids and on-site solar systems. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city adopted the Urban Greening Plan which includes green infrastructure provisions for public and private developments.

Oakland enforces the Oakland Green Building Ordinance which is based on the CalGreen state code with strengthening amendments. The city promotes clean energy investments through incentive programs and required policies. The Weatherization and Energy Retrofit Revolving Loan Program offers interest-free loans to income-eligible property owners for home improvement projects. Oakland helps to grow the clean energy workforce through its support of BayREN, which offers training and education workshops.

Compared to other utilities, PG&E 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. Through the Oakland Clean Energy Initiative, the city works closely with PG&E to promote energy efficiency and to integrate more local renewable energy into the grid. Oakland also works to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants, but could do more.

The Oakland Department of Transportation outlines strategies to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and create an efficient transportation system. Oakland has not adopted quantitative VMT reduction targets, transportation-related GHG emission reduction goals, or mode shift targets. Relative to other city systems, Oakland’s transit system is well funded and accessible. Oakland’s inclusionary development policy encourages mixed-use and transit-oriented development for low-income households by offering density bonuses for low- and moderate-income units. The city’s bike-share program also offers reduced ride fares to income-eligible customers.