

RANK

10 / 75

2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Portland

Portland earned top-5 scores for local government operations and transportation policies, and a top-10 score for energy and water utilities. The city's high marks for local government operations were partly due to its GHG emissions reduction goal and energy-savings goal, as well as its continued use of renewable energy to power government operations. Its policies to encourage compact communities—including strategies in the recently enacted 2035 Comprehensive Plan—helped the city remain a leader for transportation policies. Portland could boost its score in the future by continuing to make progress on buildings policies.

OVERALL SCORE

62.5 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

7

3.5

9



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

7.5

4.5

16



BUILDINGS POLICIES

15

9

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

11.5

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

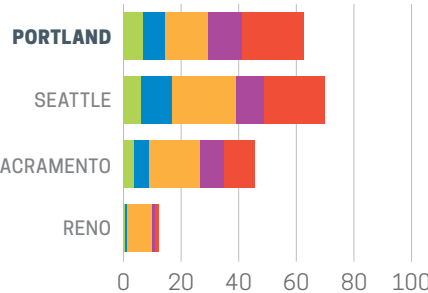
21.5

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



HOW DOES PORTLAND STACK UP REGIONALLY?



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (7 OF 9 POINTS)

Portland has adopted energy-reduction, renewable electricity, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for local government operations. ACEEE projects the city will meet its goal to reduce local government GHG emissions 20% from 2007 levels by 2030. Portland requires city buildings to achieve LEED certification and prioritizes energy efficiency upgrades at municipal buildings based on the recommendations of a strategic planning group. Portland works to incorporate fuel-efficient vehicles into its fleet and has converted approximately 75% of streetlights to LEDs.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (7.5 OF 16 POINTS)

Portland'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 40% by 2030, but we believe it will make substantial progress toward it. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city has adopted a goal to reduce the city's impervious surface area by 600 acres and increase the urban tree canopy to cover at least one-third of the city by 2030.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (15 OF 30 POINTS)

Portland requires commercial and residential buildings to comply with the 2014 Oregon Energy Efficiency Specialty Code. The city promotes clean energy investments in existing buildings mostly through mandatory policies. The Commercial Building Energy Performance Reporting Ordinance requires commercial buildings greater than 20,000 square feet to benchmark their annual energy use. The Portland Home Energy Score policy is one of the first in the nation to require single-family home sellers to get an energy audit and share the results when putting their home on the market. Portland helps to grow the clean energy workforce through its Model Community Benefits Agreement and its work on Clean Energy Works Oregon (initially Clean Energy Works Portland).

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (11.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Portland General Electric and NW Natural show moderate savings for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Portland General Electric also offers comprehensive programs for low-income and multifamily households. The city works closely with its utilities through several programs—including the City of Portland Clean Energy program and Sustainability at Work—to promote energy efficiency. Portland is also taking steps to encourage decarbonization; these include submitting comments to the Public Utility Commission as well as work through the City of Portland Clean Energy program. Multiple efforts also aim to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (21.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Portland's 2035 Transportation System Plan sets a sustainable transportation vision for the city. The Transportation Plan and the city's Climate Action Plan adopt goals to reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT) 30% below 2008 levels by 2030 and reduce transportation-related GHG emissions 50% below 1990 levels by 2035. The city does not report measurable progress towards its VMT or GHG reduction goals. Portland's Climate Action Plan also set mode shift targets to increase commuter bike-share mode to 25% and walking mode to 10%. Relative to other city systems, Portland's transit system is well funded and accessible. It is a leader in location-efficient policies, the only city to score full points in this category. Portland achieved this by establishing policy guidance to direct growth towards transit-rich areas, removing minimum parking requirements for sites within 500 feet of transit service and affordable housing citywide, and amending its zoning code so housing is produced within mixed-use zones.