

RANK

13 / 75

2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

# San Diego

San Diego was a most-improved city in the 2017 *City Scorecard*, and continues to take positive steps forward for clean energy. San Diego was the top-scoring city in energy and water utilities due to several factors, including the utility's strong energy efficiency programs, city efforts to encourage more renewable generation, and the Local Government Partnership between the city and SDG&E. The city also took steps to improve its performance for transportation policies by developing sustainable transportation goals through the city's updated Climate Action Plan. The city can improve its rank in the future by taking additional steps to improve its performance for transportation policies and also by increasing its scoring for community-wide initiatives.

OVERALL SCORE

58.5 / 100



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

6

3.5

9



## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

7.5

4.5

16



## BUILDINGS POLICIES

19

9

30



## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

13.5

5.5

15



## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

12.5

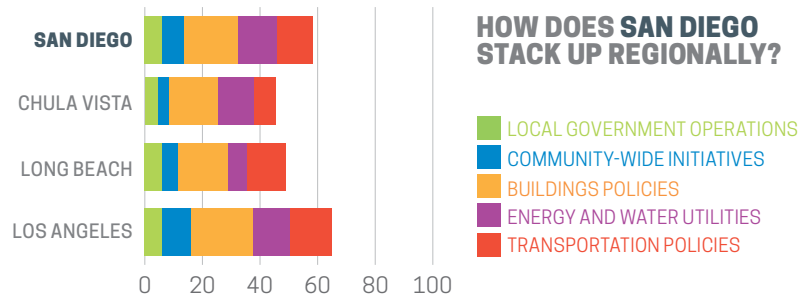
8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE

## HOW DOES SAN DIEGO STACK UP REGIONALLY?



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (6 OF 9 POINTS)

San Diego has adopted energy-reduction, renewable electricity, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals. ACEEE does not currently project the city will achieve its goal of reducing GHG emissions 15% by 2020. San Diego requires new buildings to achieve LEED Silver certification and benchmarks energy use in more than 75% of municipal building square footage. The city works to incorporate fuel-efficient vehicles into its fleet to meet its zero-emission vehicle fleet goal. San Diego requires its outdoor lighting to be energy-efficient and has updated 88% of streetlights to LEDs.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (7.5 OF 16 POINTS)

San Diego'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 15% by 2020. The city supports the development of on-site solar systems by offering streamlined permitting. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city has adopted a goal to increase urban tree canopy coverage to 15% by 2020.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (19 OF 30 POINTS)

San Diego enforces the 2016 California Building Energy Efficiency Standards for commercial and residential buildings. The city drives clean energy investments in existing buildings primarily through incentive programs. It grants commercial and residential property owners access to property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing for energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy installations. The city also offers expedited permitting to residential and commercial projects that meet green building standards. The city partners with Grid Alternatives to offer a Solar Installer Apprentice program.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (13.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) shows high savings for electric efficiency programs and low savings for natural gas efficiency programs. The utility offers comprehensive programs for low-income and multifamily households. Through the Local Government Partnership, the city works closely with SDG&E to promote energy efficiency. San Diego is also taking steps to encourage decarbonization, including submitting comments on various proceedings at the California Public Utility Commission to support more renewable generation. Multiple efforts also aim to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (12.5 OF 30 POINTS)

San Diego's Climate Action Plan includes provisions on reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and encouraging a multimodal and efficient transportation system. The Climate Action Plan adopts a goal of reducing transportation-related GHG emissions 23% below 2010 levels by 2035. San Diego was one of only six cities to report measurable progress towards its GHG emissions reduction goal for the transportation sector. The city has also set several mode shift targets to encourage increases in transit, walking, and bicycling commuter shares. To achieve this target and create a sustainable transportation system, the city can adopt a complete streets policy and increase the number of bikes offered by city bike-sharing services. Relative to other city systems, San Diego can take efforts to both direct investment towards transit services and improve transit accessibility. Although the city can offer more efficient transportation options to low-income residents, it has taken a positive first step by reducing minimum parking requirements for low-income housing built near transit areas.