

RANK

2 / 75

2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

San Francisco

San Francisco earned the Scorecard's second spot by continuing to prioritize clean energy in its local policy decision making. The city earned a top-five score for local government operations and the highest score for transportation policies. The city's sustainable transportation planning, policies to encourage modes of transport other than personal vehicles, and efforts to encourage compact communities all drove San Francisco's strong performance for transportation policies. San Francisco's strong policies should continue to keep it at the top, but the city could boost its score by adopting additional requirements to boost efficiency in existing buildings.

OVERALL SCORE

71.5 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

7

3.5

9



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

7.5

4.5

16



BUILDINGS POLICIES

21.5

9

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

12

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

23.5

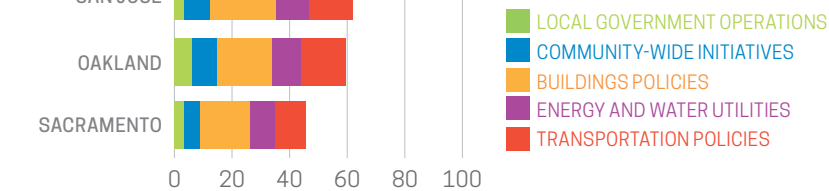
8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE

HOW DOES SAN FRANCISCO STACK UP REGIONALLY?



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (7 OF 9 POINTS)

San Francisco has a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal for local government operations and a goal to continue using renewable electricity to power all city facilities. ACEEE projects that the city will meet its goal to reduce GHG emissions by 40% from 1990 levels by 2025. San Francisco requires LEED Gold certification for all new public construction, benchmarks energy use in all municipal buildings, and retrofits select buildings. The city works to incorporate fuel-efficient vehicles into its fleet to meet its zero-emission vehicle goal. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission began its LED Conversion Project in 2016 and has upgraded 97% of city streetlights to LEDs.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (7.5 OF 16 POINTS)

San Francisco's GHG emissions reduction and renewable energy goals provide the vision for its clean energy efforts. ACEEE projects that the city will achieve its goal of reducing community-wide GHG emissions 40% by 2025. The city has adopted requirements that new buildings include rooftop solar systems. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city aims to increase tree canopy coverage to 25% by 2030.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (21.5 OF 30 POINTS)

San Francisco adopted the California Green Building Code with amendments that set more stringent requirements for both commercial and residential buildings. The city encourages efficiency improvements in existing buildings through a variety of incentives and requirements. The city's benchmarking ordinance requires commercial buildings greater than 10,000 square feet to benchmark their annual energy consumption. The policy covers 88% of commercial buildings in the city and has achieved energy-use reduction of 6.1% in those buildings over the past four years. The ordinance also requires buildings to conduct an energy audit or retrocommissioning every five years. The city helps to grow the clean energy workforce through the GoSolarSF program.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (12 OF 15 POINTS)

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 San Francisco Energy Watch program, the city works closely with PG&E to promote energy efficiency. San Francisco is also taking steps to encourage decarbonization, including creating CleanPowerSF, a community choice aggregation program. Multiple efforts also aim to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (23.5 OF 30 POINTS)

The 2017 San Francisco Transportation Sector Climate Action Strategy adopts a goal of reducing emissions from the transportation sector 40% below 1990 levels by 2025. San Francisco was one of only six cities to report progress towards its GHG goal for the transportation sector, having reduced emissions 28% below 1990 levels in 2017. The plan also sets a mode share target of 80% of trips made using environmentally sustainable modes by 2030, and, to better achieve its mode share target, the city released the Connect SF roadmap in 2018. Relative to systems in other cities, San Francisco's transit system is well funded and accessible. San Francisco adopted exemplary location-efficient zoning policies, abolished minimum parking requirements citywide, and offers density bonuses for affordable housing in transit-served areas.