

RANK

11 / 75

2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

San José

San José nearly broke into the top 10 for the first time. Its progress shows that new leaders continue to emerge; if other top cities want to maintain their rankings, local policymakers must continue increasing their ambition. The adoption of the Energy and Water Performance Ordinance was San José's most notable action since the last edition. This ordinance set an energy benchmarking requirement that expanded upon the statewide program and established an energy action requirement. San José's adoption of the ordinance was a strong factor in the city earning the third-highest score for buildings policies. The city also had a top-10 score for energy and water utilities. San José can continue its improvement by making more progress on transportation policies and local government operations.

OVERALL SCORE

62 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

3.5

3.5

9



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

9

4.5

16



BUILDINGS POLICIES

23

9

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

11.5

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

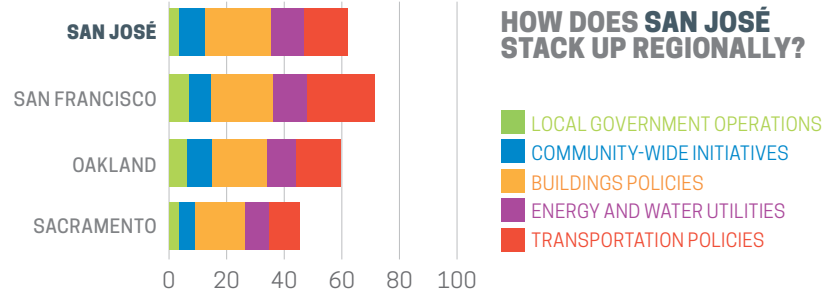
15

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3.5 OF 9 POINTS)

San José set a goal to increase on-site solar capacity on municipal buildings to 11 megawatts by 2021. San José benchmarks 25% of its municipal building square footage and requires all municipal building projects to achieve—at minimum—LEED Silver certification. The city's Green Fleet Policy encourages the procurement of low-emissions vehicles for the city fleet. San José can improve its performance by ramping up efforts to convert streetlights to LEDs.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (9 OF 16 POINTS)

San José's GHG emissions reduction, energy-savings, and renewable energy goals provide the vision for its clean energy efforts. ACEEE projects the city will achieve its goal of reducing community-wide GHG emissions 4% by 2021. The city has been involved in the development of municipal on-site solar systems. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, San José has adopted a goal to plant 100,000 trees by 2022.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (23 OF 30 POINTS)

San José requires commercial and residential buildings to comply with the 2016 California Building Energy Efficiency Standards. The city implements several incentive programs and mandatory policies to drive clean energy investments in existing buildings. The Energy and Water Building Performance Ordinance requires buildings over 20,000 square feet to benchmark energy use; it also sets a requirement for low-performing buildings to undergo an energy audit, retrofit, or retrocommissioning. San José helps to grow the clean energy workforce through Work2Future, a program that provides training and pre-apprentice training to young adults from disadvantaged communities. The program has trained more than 250 young adults since 2017, and more than 80% of them have secured a job or apprenticeship.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (11.5 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 Silicon Valley Energy Watch program, the city works closely with PG&E to promote energy efficiency. San José is also taking steps to encourage decarbonization by creating San José Clean Energy, a community choice aggregation program. Multiple efforts also aim to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (15 OF 30 POINTS)

The Circulation Element of the Envision San José 2040 General Plan sets a sustainable and multimodal transportation vision for the city; it adopts a goal to reduce the amount of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per service population per day 40% below 2009 levels by 2040. The city does not currently track progress towards its VMT goal. The Envision San José 2040 General Plan also establishes mode shift targets to increase the number of trips by walking, cycling, carpooling, and transit. Relative to other city systems, San José's transit system is well funded, but the city can make efforts to improve transit accessibility. Likewise, the city can take steps to improve the percentage of low-income households with access to high-quality transit. San José does offer low-income residents discounts towards Ford GoBike, the city's bike-share program, and incentivizes affordable housing development in transit-served areas through its Transportation Analysis Policy.