

RANK

3 / 75

2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Seattle

Seattle maintained the third spot in the rankings, showing continued leadership on clean energy policy. The city scored in the top five for its community-wide initiatives, buildings policies, and transportation policies. Seattle also earned high marks across the report for metrics assessing equity-driven clean energy planning and policies for efforts such as the formation of the Environmental Justice Committee. Seattle has several options for improving its ranking in the future, including increasing savings from the energy efficiency programs run by Seattle City Light.

OVERALL SCORE

70 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

6

3.5

9



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

11

4.5

16



BUILDINGS POLICIES

22

9

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

10

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

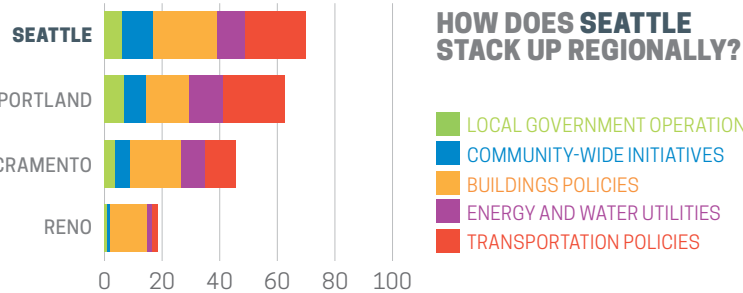
21

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (6 OF 9 POINTS)

Seattle has a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal, an energy-reduction goal, as well as a goal to continue using renewable electricity to power all city facilities. ACEEE cannot project that the city will achieve its goal of reducing GHG emissions 40% from 2008 levels by 2025 as data isn't available to project progress. Seattle requires new municipal buildings and renovations to meet LEED standards, benchmarks approximately 90%, and has retrofitted 27% of municipal buildings. Through Seattle's LED Streetlight program, the city has converted approximately 79% of streetlights to LEDs.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (11 OF 16 POINTS)

Seattle's GHG emissions reduction and energy-savings goals and its equity-driven planning efforts provide the vision for its clean energy efforts. ACEEE does not currently project that the city will achieve its goal of reducing community-wide GHG emissions 58% by 2030. The city has overseen the creation of microgrid systems. It also provides grants for private on-site solar and community solar systems. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city aims to increase tree canopy coverage to 30% by 2037.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (22 OF 30 POINTS)

Seattle has adopted the Washington State Energy Code for residential buildings and the Seattle Energy Code for commercial buildings, which is based on the state code with amendments that set more stringent requirements. The city implements several incentive programs and policies that drive clean energy investments in existing buildings. The Seattle Tune-Up Policy requires owners of large commercial buildings to perform energy assessments and building tune-ups every five years. The city promotes equitable workforce development for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects through its socially responsible policy for procuring, purchasing, and contracting for all projects.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (10 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Seattle City Light and Puget Sound Energy show moderate savings for electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Seattle City Light offers comprehensive programs for low-income and multifamily households. In 2017, Seattle's City Light generated 93% of its electricity from renewable sources, including hydro power. Multiple efforts also aim to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (21 OF 30 POINTS)

Seattle's Transportation Strategic Plan establishes strategies to achieve a more efficient and multimodal transportation system, and the city's Drive Clean Seattle initiative serves as a roadmap to electrify the transportation sector. Additionally, Seattle's Climate Action Plan establishes a goal of reducing transportation-related GHG emissions 82% below 2008 levels by 2030. The city reported measurable progress towards its GHG goal, reducing transportation emissions by 0.7%. Seattle has a mode share target of limiting single occupancy vehicle trips to 25% below 2012 levels by 2025. Relative to systems in other cities, Seattle's transit system is well funded and accessible, but there is some room to improve both per capita investment and accessibility. Seattle adopted the Freight Master Plan to encourage energy efficient practices in freight movement, making it one of only five cities to earn full points for the metric.