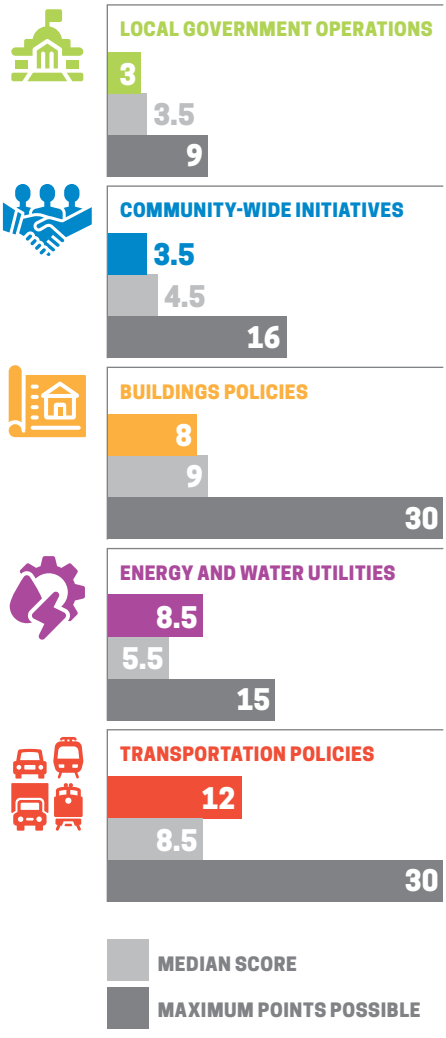
RANK

31 /75

OVERALL SCORE

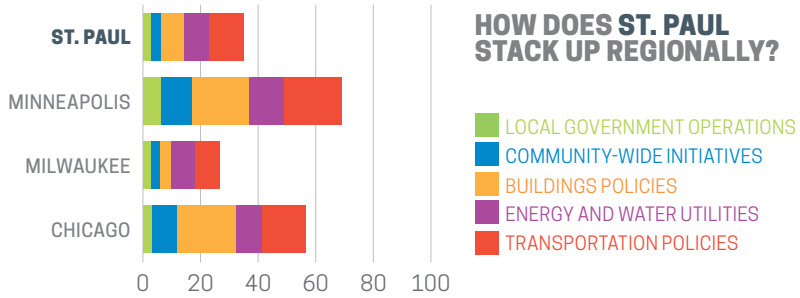
35 /100



2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

St. Paul

St. Paul performed best in energy and water utilities. The city's score was due to Xcel Energy's strong electricity and natural gas efficiency programs, its low-income and multifamily efficiency offerings, and the Partners in Energy program. St. Paul has several options to improve its rank in the next edition, most notably in community-wide initiatives and buildings policies.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3 OF 9 POINTS)

St. Paul has established greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and renewable electricity goals for local government operations. ACEEE does not currently project that the city will achieve its goal of reducing local government GHG emissions 100% by 2030. St. Paul sets green building requirements for city-funded construction and benchmarks energy use in select buildings. The city has a lighting replacement and upgrade program, which is working to convert streetlights to LEDs. To ramp up its efforts, St. Paul can establish an energy-reduction goal for local government operations and work to incorporate fuel-efficient vehicles into its fleet.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (3.5 OF 16 POINTS)

St. Paul has not adopted community-wide GHG reduction, energy-savings, or renewable energy goals. The city can set these goals to inspire future clean energy efforts. It allows on-site solar-by-right accessory use in all land zones and has overseen the creation of municipal district energy systems. To better mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city has adopted goals to increase the urban tree canopy to 15% in the downtown area and 40% in all other areas of the city.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (8 OF 30 POINTS)

Minnesota requires all jurisdictions to adopt the 2015 Minnesota Energy Code that references the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). St. Paul advocates for more stringent state energy codes, and requires stricter efficiency levels for buildings that receive public funding. The city offers incentive and financing programs to encourage clean energy investments in existing buildings, like the Energy Smart Home program that offers interest-free loans for energy efficiency projects. The city could further support clean energy improvements to its building stock by implementing policies that encourage energy saving actions and helping develop a clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (8.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Xcel Energy shows high savings for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Xcel Energy also offers comprehensive programs for low-income and multifamily households. Through the Partners in Energy program, the city works closely with its utility to promote energy efficiency. St. Paul is also taking steps to encourage decarbonization, including through its participation in the Partners in Energy program. St. Paul could improve the energy efficiency of water services.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (12 OF 30 POINTS)

St. Paul's Transportation Plan includes sustainable transportation provisions. St. Paul has not adopted quantitative vehicle miles traveled (VMT) or transportation-related GHG emissions reduction goals, nor has the city adopted mode shift targets. Coupling VMT or GHG reduction goals with mode shift targets can help guide the city into a sustainable transportation future. Relative to other city systems, St. Paul's transportation system is accessible but underfunded. St. Paul's location-efficient codes encourages transit-oriented, mixed-use, and compact development, and the city has established parking maximums citywide. The city can bolster its location-efficient policies by requiring transit-oriented development citywide, abolishing minimum parking requirements citywide, and offering more incentives for compact and mixed-use development.

ACEEE
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy