

RANK

52 / 75

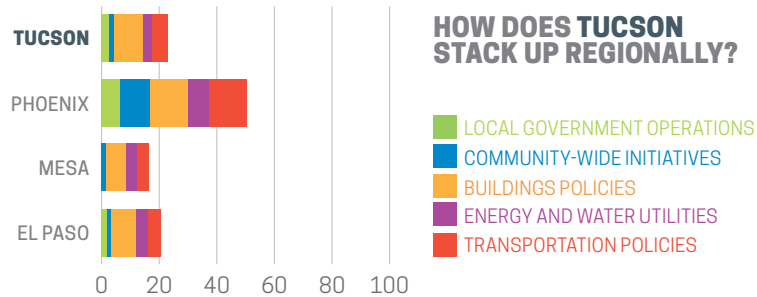
2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Tucson

OVERALL SCORE

23 / 100

Though the city still has room to improve, Tucson performed best in buildings policies. In 2018, the city took steps to improve the energy efficiency of its commercial and residential buildings by adopting the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Tucson was also among a group of fewer than 20 cities with solar-ready requirements for buildings. The city can improve across all policy areas to advance in rank in the next edition, most notably in community-wide initiatives, energy and water utilities, and transportation policies.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (2.5 OF 9 POINTS)

Tucson sets green building standards for municipal buildings, developed goals for fleet efficiency, and has converted streetlights to LEDs. Otherwise, the city has few initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in local government operations. The city has several options for increasing clean energy investment in local government operations, including establishing energy-reduction, renewable electricity, and climate change mitigation goals and developing a comprehensive retrofit strategy for municipal buildings.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (2 OF 16 POINTS)

Tucson's 2030 District has a goal to reduce energy use 50% by 2030. The city has also provided land for on-site renewable energy systems. To inspire future clean energy efforts, Tucson can set community-wide GHG emissions reduction, energy-savings, and renewable energy goals. The city can also take more steps to support the development of efficient distributed energy systems, such as entering into a power purchase agreement or updating its zoning regulations to promote the installation of these energy systems.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (10 OF 30 POINTS)

Arizona allows jurisdictions to adopt codes more stringent than those mandated by the state. Tucson requires commercial and residential buildings to comply with the 2018 IECC; the city also adopted a solar-ready ordinance for residential buildings. The state does not permit the city to adopt benchmarking requirements or other energy-savings requirements; however the city can encourage improved energy efficiency in existing buildings by creating voluntary benchmarking initiatives or energy challenges. The city can also help build an equitable clean energy workforce through training programs and inclusive procurement policies.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (3 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Tucson Electric Power and Southwest Gas show low savings for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Both utilities offer comprehensive programs for low-income households, and Tucson Electric offers comprehensive programs for multifamily households. Based on available data, we did not find that Tucson encouraged Tucson Electric Power to increase its utility-scale or distributed electricity generation from renewable sources; Tucson Electric Power also does not offer incentives for the construction of new distributed solar or wind systems. Tucson could also improve the energy efficiency of water services.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (5.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Tucson offers transit discounts to low-income residents through Sun Tran, and a majority of low-income households have access to high-quality transit; however the city has few sustainable transportation initiatives. To improve its standing in the next Scorecard, the city could develop a sustainable transportation plan, enact location-efficient zoning policies, and encourage energy-efficient modes of transportation.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

2.5

3.5

9



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

2

4.5

16



BUILDINGS POLICIES

10

9

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

3

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

5.5

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE