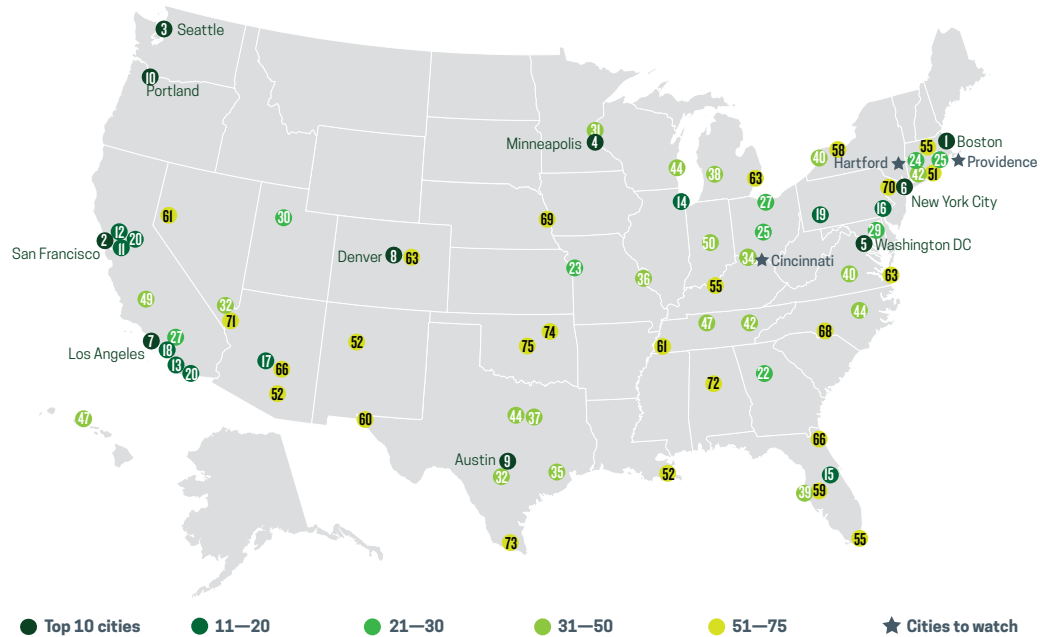


# United States

The *City Scorecard* captures examples of local leadership on climate action across the country. Boston is leading the way with outstanding clean energy policies. Others at the top—like San Francisco, Seattle, Minneapolis, and Washington—are also continuing to push the envelope. The leading cities face competition from several that have redoubled their efforts. San José nearly broke into the top 10 for the first time this year on the strength of its policies like the Energy and Water Building Performance Ordinance. We also identified Cincinnati, Hartford, and Providence as cities to watch: Each of them climbed in the rankings and stood out in its pursuit of clean energy policies. Across the country, between January 2017 and April 2019, the cities we assessed took more than 265 actions—new initiatives or expansions of past ones—to advance their clean energy agendas. At the same time, all of them can do more to meet their climate change mitigation goals by pushing for innovative buildings policies, tackling transportation emissions, and tracking progress to prioritize investments as they continue to build prosperous low-carbon communities.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS | MEDIAN SCORE: 3.5/9

Austin, Boston, Orlando, Portland and San Francisco performed best for local government operations. All have set policies to increase efficiency in city government, procurement, and asset management. Across all cities, most municipalities did not perform well for their climate change mitigation, energy savings, and renewable electricity goals. While many cities have such objectives, few earned full points since their goals are not overly stringent and their progress toward achieving them is uneven. Thirty-nine cities aim to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from their local government operations, but we projected only 17 to be on track. On the other hand, cities scored well for their procurement and construction policies and their asset management strategies. Many of them have above-code green building requirements and benchmark all local government buildings over 5,000 square feet.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES | MEDIAN SCORE: 4.5/16

Washington, Seattle, Cleveland, Denver, Minneapolis, Orlando, and Phoenix were the highest scoring cities for community-wide initiatives. All of them have adopted climate and energy goals, policies that support the creation of at least one type of distributed energy system, and initiatives to mitigate the urban heat island effect. All but two address equity in their clean energy planning and implementation. In fact most of the cities we reviewed have adopted community-wide climate and energy goals, and many have adopted new goals or strengthened existing ones since the last *Scorecard*. However few cities saw their climate goals translate into points: Whereas 34 earned points for GHG goal stringency, only 11 showed they were on track to achieve them. Cities can remedy this by adopting more aggressive climate goals and annually measuring progress towards them. In other areas, on-site renewables and community solar systems are twice as likely as district energy and combined heat and power to win policy support, even though all these systems can help achieve clean energy goals. Cities fared well in urban heat island mitigation, with over 60 having a goal or policy in place to reduce elevated urban temperatures. However just 24 cities scored points for equity-driven climate and energy planning, and only Minneapolis, Seattle, and Providence earned full points here. Most cities can do better in the way of equitable clean energy planning and implementation.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES | MEDIAN SCORE: 9/30

Boston, New York, San Jose, Seattle, Los Angeles, and San Francisco performed best for buildings policies. These six cities show their commitment to reducing building energy use through stringent energy codes, solar- and EV-readiness policies, benchmarking ordinances, and energy-action requirements. Across the board, cities have increased their efforts to reduce energy consumption in private buildings since the 2017 *City Scorecard*. Nine have adopted more-stringent building energy codes, and several states now have codes that apply in all their cities. Five cities have adopted benchmarking policies, including single-family and multifamily benchmarking in Minneapolis. Seven passed energy-action requirements, including building labeling ordinances in Chicago and New York and energy performance standards in Washington. Other cities have more to do since the majority of them do not have benchmarking requirements or energy-action requirements in place.

# United States

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES | MEDIAN SCORE: 5.5/15

San Diego, Los Angeles, Boston, Chula Vista, Minneapolis, and San Francisco were the top scorers for energy and water utilities. The energy efficiency programs of the utilities serving these cities offer high levels of savings, and the utilities and cities are working to increase their supply of and use of renewable energy. Across all utilities, we found that few achieved either electric or natural gas savings greater than 2%. Yet more cities have developed formal partnerships with their utilities, and many utilities are continuing to improve and expand their low-income and multifamily programs. At the same time, many cities can ramp up their efforts to encourage local decarbonization of their utility grids. No city earned full credit for the renewable energy efforts of its utilities, and about 40% earned no points at all in this area. We found it more encouraging that six cities—Austin, Columbus, Denver, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Seattle—earned full credit for energy savings initiatives in drinking water and wastewater services.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES | MEDIAN SCORE: 8.5/30

San Francisco, Washington, Boston, Portland, and Seattle performed best for transportation policies. They are dedicated to reducing transportation energy use through location efficiency strategies, shifts to efficient modes of transportation, and transit investments. Overall, 16 cities applied vehicle miles traveled (VMT) or GHG reduction targets to transportation emissions, but only 6 showed measurable progress toward goals. Eighteen cities had mode share targets that covered not only single-occupancy vehicles and public transit but also biking and walking. Cities performed best for their location efficiency and mode shift efforts as they recognized the need for clean transportation options and land-use changes to support them. In general, though, while a number of cities are making strides in reducing GHGs from transportation, they could all do more to reduce their transportation-related emissions and energy consumption, particularly through policies that target transportation systems as a whole in addition to vehicle-specific approaches.

## FULL CITY RANKINGS

### ● Top 10 cities

1. Boston
2. San Francisco
3. Seattle
4. Minneapolis
5. Washington
6. New York City
7. Los Angeles
8. Denver
9. Austin
10. Portland

### ● 11—20

11. San José
12. Oakland
13. San Diego
14. Chicago
15. Orlando
16. Philadelphia
17. Phoenix
18. Long Beach
19. Pittsburgh
20. Sacramento
20. Chula Vista, CA

### ● 21—30

22. Atlanta
23. Kansas City
24. Hartford
25. Providence
25. Columbus
27. Cleveland
27. Riverside, CA
29. Baltimore
30. Salt Lake City

### ● 31—50

31. St. Paul
32. San Antonio
32. Las Vegas
34. Cincinnati
35. Houston
36. St. Louis
37. Dallas
38. Grand Rapids
39. St. Petersburg
40. Richmond
40. Buffalo
42. Bridgeport, CT
42. Knoxville
44. Milwaukee
44. Raleigh
44. Fort Worth
47. Nashville
47. Honolulu
49. Bakersfield
50. Indianapolis

### ● 51—75

51. New Haven
52. New Orleans
52. Tucson
52. Albuquerque
55. Louisville
55. Miami
55. Worcester
58. Rochester
59. Tampa
60. El Paso
61. Reno
61. Memphis
63. Virginia Beach
63. Aurora
63. Detroit
66. Jacksonville
66. Mesa
68. Charlotte
69. Omaha
70. Newark
71. Henderson, NV
72. Birmingham
73. McAllen, TX
74. Tulsa
75. Oklahoma City

### ★ Cities to watch

- Hartford
- Providence
- Cincinnati