

RANK

30/100 ↑

OVERALL SCORE

38.5/100

RECOMMENDATIONS

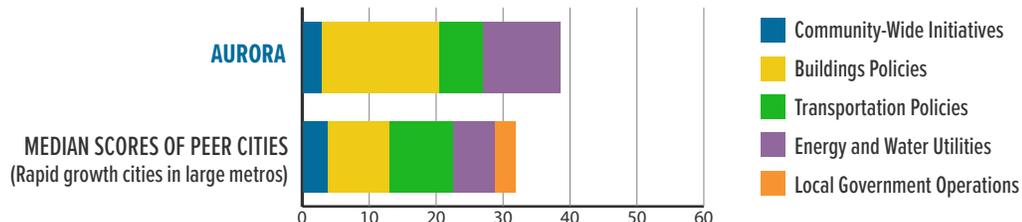
- Set and track goals for GHG emissions in municipal operations.
- Establish and track metrics related to energy equity.
- Adopt solar- and EV-ready requirements in building codes.
- Adopt stringent transportation sector VMT or GHG emissions goals and track progress.
- Expand high-quality transit access for low-income residents.
- Increase the deployment of EV charging infrastructure.

2021 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

AURORA, CO

Aurora performed best in the energy and water utilities category. The city moved up several spots in the rankings from the previous Scorecard. It can improve across all policy areas to advance its rank in the next edition, most notably in local government operations.

HOW DOES AURORA STACK UP TO PEER CITIES?



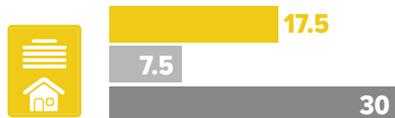
COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (3 OF 15 POINTS)

Aurora's climate change mitigation goal sets the vision for a clean energy future. Based on emissions data from past years, ACEEE projects the city will achieve its near-term, community-wide climate mitigation goal of 10% below 2007 levels by 2025. Aurora supported the creation of three community solar gardens within the city. To inspire future clean energy efforts, it can adopt citywide clean energy goals, take an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning, and adopt policies and programs to mitigate the urban heat island effect.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



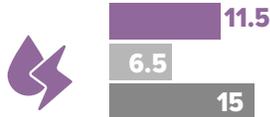
BUILDINGS POLICIES



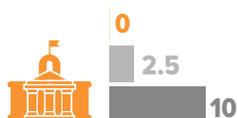
TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



MEDIAN SCORE OF ALL CITIES  
MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE

BUILDINGS POLICIES (17.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Aurora requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. We could not find information on whether the city has adopted solar ordinances or policies requiring buildings to include EV charging infrastructure or be EV ready. Due to zoning code amendments, Aurora allows solar energy use in all zones. The city requires new municipal buildings to be built to LEED Gold standards. Colorado House Bill 21-1286 requires commercial and multifamily buildings to meet performance standards, benchmark energy use, and disclose energy use at the time of sale or renting. Solar energy trainings offered through SolarTAC help grow the renewable energy workforce. Aurora offers PACE financing to incentivize clean energy and energy efficiency investment.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (6.5 OF 30 POINTS)

In Aurora, 19.8% of low-income households have access to high-quality transit. With only 28.7 ports per 100,000 people, the city has a very low number of EV charging station ports available for public use. Aurora has neither a sustainable freight transportation plan in place nor policies that address freight efficiency, nor has it codified either VMT- or transportation-related GHG reduction targets. We could not determine the amount of local transit funding received by the transportation entities that serve Aurora.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (11.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Xcel Energy shows moderate savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs and low savings for natural gas efficiency programs. The utility offers a portfolio of energy efficiency programs for low-income customers that includes comprehensive programs and health and safety measures, as well as a comprehensive program for multifamily properties. Xcel Energy provides community-wide energy usage information for planning and evaluation purposes, yet Aurora does not advocate for better access to utility data for ratepayers. We cannot confirm whether the city of Aurora participates in activities or strategies to help spur or encourage more utility-scale or distributed renewable energy generation from its local electric utility. In December 2018, Xcel Energy set a stringent goal to provide customers with 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (0 OF 10 POINTS)

Aurora has adopted a GHG emissions reduction goal for local government operations. ACEEE was unable to project if the city will achieve its near-term climate mitigation goal of 10% below 2007 levels by 2025 because insufficient GHG emissions data were available for our analysis. The city has few initiatives to reduce GHG emissions in local government operations. We were unable to find information indicating that the city has an efficient fleet procurement or outdoor lighting policy or that it has converted streetlights to LEDs. To our knowledge, Aurora has not established inclusive procurement policies or developed a comprehensive retrofit strategy.