

RANK

14/100



OVERALL SCORE

54.5/100

RECOMMENDATIONS

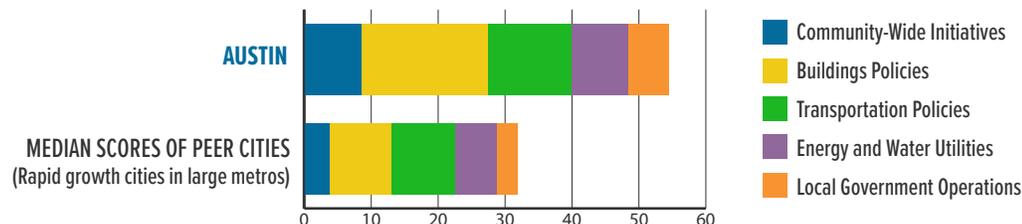
- Require new policies, programs, plans, and budgeting decisions to undergo structural equity assessments.
- Adopt and track a goal for reduction in VMT or transportation sector GHG emissions.
- Adopt EV-ready requirements in building codes.
- Target high-quality transit access for low-income residents.

2021 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

AUSTIN, TX

Austin performed best in the buildings policies category. The city moved down slightly in the rankings from the previous *Scorecard*. To boost its rank in future editions, Austin can focus on taking steps to further improve its performance in the transportation policies category.

HOW DOES AUSTIN STACK UP TO PEER CITIES?



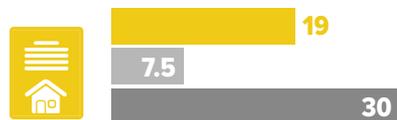
COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (8.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Austin’s climate change mitigation and renewable energy goals set 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 49% below 2010 levels by 2030. Austin Energy supported the integration of energy storage in district energy systems and the creation of community solar within the city, with lower rates for low-income customers. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, Austin offers incentives to encourage green infrastructure installation.

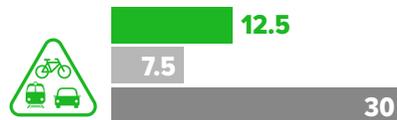
COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



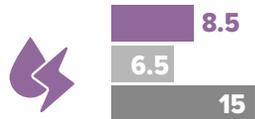
BUILDINGS POLICIES



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



■ MEDIAN SCORE OF ALL CITIES
■ MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE

BUILDINGS POLICIES (19 OF 30 POINTS)

Austin’s energy code for residential and commercial buildings is based on the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code with local amendments. New residential and commercial buildings must adhere to solar readiness requirements. The city doesn’t mandate that projects be EV ready. Austin has above-code green buildings requirements that apply to new private buildings in certain areas and requires new municipal buildings to achieve LEED standards. The Austin Civilian Conservation Corps program and the city’s support for the Austin Clean Tech Incubator help grow the clean energy workforce. To achieve energy reductions in existing buildings, the city requires all homes and multifamily buildings that are 10 years and older to have an energy audit performed in accordance with its Energy Conservation and Disclosure Ordinance. Home sellers must disclose results to prospective buyers, and owners of multifamily buildings must disclose results to prospective renters. Multifamily properties must also reduce energy use if the property’s energy use exceeds 150% of the average energy use for that building type.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (12.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Of low-income households in Austin, 12.6% have access to high-quality transit. With 84.9 ports per 100,000 people, the city has a moderate number of EV charging station ports available for public use. Austin has neither a sustainable freight transportation plan in place nor any policies that address freight efficiency, nor has it codified VMT or transportation-related GHG reduction targets. The transportation entities that serve Austin have received roughly \$190.57 per capita on average in local transit funding annually between 2015 and 2019, a moderate funding level.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (8.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, the municipally owned Austin Energy reports low savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs and Texas Gas Services reports very low savings as a percentage of sales for natural gas efficiency programs. Austin Energy 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. The utility also provides community-wide energy usage information for community planning and evaluation purposes. In 2020, Austin Energy’s Scope 1 and 2 CO₂ emissions were relatively high at 19 metric tons. Austin Energy set a stringent goal to achieve 100% carbon-free electricity generation by 2035.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (6 OF 10 POINTS)

Austin does not have an active GHG emissions reduction goal for local government operations. The city benchmarks building energy use, identifies energy efficiency opportunities, and conducts retrofits at multiple municipal buildings. It also requires the procurement of efficient vehicles and requires efficient outdoor lighting. The city is working to convert streetlights to LEDs and has installed more than 1400 kW of onsite municipal solar capacity. We were unable to verify that the city has inclusive procurement policies used for energy projects.