RANK

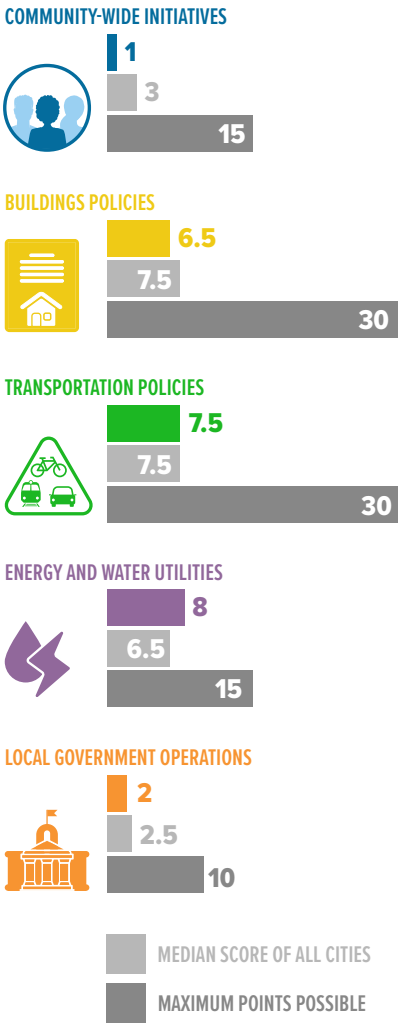
53/100

OVERALL SCORE

25/100

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Take additional steps to ensure builders comply with energy codes.
- Adopt energy benchmarking and rental energy disclosure policies.
- Establish and track metrics related to energy equity.
- Adopt solar- and EV-ready requirements in building codes.
- Expand high-quality transit access for low-income residents.
- Adopt and track a goal for reduction in VMT or transportation sector GHG emissions.



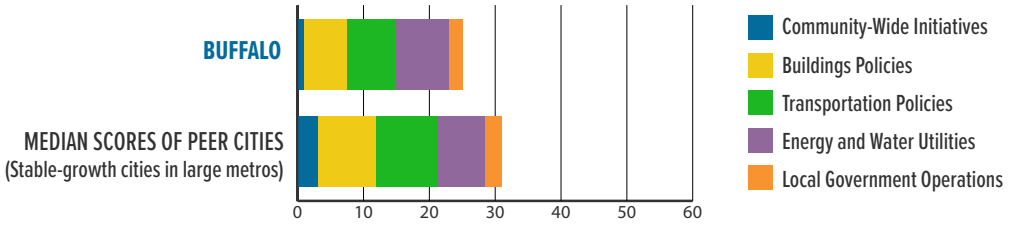
ACEEE
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

2021 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

BUFFALO, NY

Buffalo had its best performance in the energy and water utilities category, but the city moved down significantly in the rankings compared to the previous *Scorecard*. The city can improve across all policy areas to advance its rank in the next edition, most notably in community-wide initiatives and buildings policies.

HOW DOES BUFFALO STACK UP TO PEER CITIES?



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (1 OF 15 POINTS)

Buffalo's Green Code requires new developments to use low-impact development techniques, but the city has pursued few other community-wide initiatives. It has not adopted citywide climate and energy goals, taken an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning, or adopted a formal policy, rule, or agreement that supports the creation of community solar and the integration of emissions-reducing technology in distributed energy systems within the community.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (6.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Buffalo requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code, which references the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code. The Buffalo Green Code allows for the development of on-site renewable energy systems in six zones. 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. The Buffalo Public Schools help grow the renewable energy workforce by offering solar energy education, training, and certification to high school students. Buffalo does not have policies that incentivize or require energy efficiency in existing buildings.

TRANSPORTATION (7.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Of low-income households in Buffalo, 15.4% have access to high-quality transit. With 151.2 per 100,000 people, the city has a high number of EV charging station ports available for public use. Buffalo 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. Transportation entities that serve Buffalo have received roughly $80.46 per capita on average in local transit funding annually between 2015 and 2019, a low funding level.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (8 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, National Grid and NYSERDA show moderate savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs. National Fuel Gas shows low savings as a percentage of sales for natural gas efficiency programs. NYSERDA offers the EmPower New York program for low-income residential National Grid customers, which includes health and safety measures, as well as a comprehensive multifamily program. While Buffalo does not provide community-wide energy usage information at the aggregate level for community planning and evaluation purposes, it does advocate for additional transparency regarding energy use data. Buffalo has also encouraged efforts to decarbonize the electric grid. National Grid set a modest target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (2 OF 10 POINTS)

Buffalo's Energy Master Plan includes actions to replace vehicles with high-efficiency and hybrid vehicles. The city has started to convert streetlights to LEDs through an improvement program that aligns lighting upgrades with ongoing streetscape projects and has installed 255 kW of solar capacity on city buildings. We were unable to verify that Buffalo has inclusive procurement policies for energy projects. Buffalo has relied on energy audits when prioritizing efficiency retrofits.