Nashville performed best in local government operations and moved up several spots in the rankings from the previous Scorecard. The city can improve across all policy areas to continue to advance its rank in the next edition, but most notably in community-wide initiatives.

**COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (2.5 OF 15 POINTS)**

Nashville supported the creation of community solar within the city and reserved shares of the system for low-income residents. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, it adopted a goal to plant 500,000 trees by 2050. Nashville has not adopted citywide climate and energy goals or taken an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning.

**BUILDINGS POLICIES (7.5 OF 30 POINTS)**

The city requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2018 International Building Codes. We could not find information on whether Nashville has adopted solar ordinances or policies requiring buildings to include EV charging infrastructure or be EV ready. A jobs training provision in the Home Energy Uplift Program helps grow the clean energy workforce. Nashville offers incentives such as the Home Energy Savings and Home Energy Uplift Programs to spur clean energy investment in low-income households.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (8.5 OF 30 POINTS)**

Of low-income households in Nashville, 0% have access to high-quality transit. With 51.3 ports per 100,000 people, the city has a low number of EV charging station ports available for public use. Nashville has in place neither a sustainable freight transportation plan nor any policies that address freight efficiency, nor has it codified VMT or transportation-related GHG reduction targets. The transportation entities that serve the city have received roughly $49.96 per capita on average in local transit funding annually between 2015 and 2019, a very low funding level.

**ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (6 OF 15 POINTS)**

Compared to other utilities, Nashville Electric Service (NES) shows very low savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs, and Piedmont Natural Gas did not report energy savings from natural gas programs in 2019. While neither utility offers multifamily energy efficiency programs, NES partners with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to implement a comprehensive program that includes health and safety measures for low-income customers. Nashville requests community-wide electricity and gas use data from the utilities when compiling its GHG emissions inventories. To our knowledge, the city does not advocate for better access to utility data for ratepayers. In 2019, TVA emitted 5.7 metric tons of CO₂ per capita. That same year, it committed to a moderate goal of reducing GHG emissions 80% by 2035.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (4 OF 10 POINTS)**

Nashville has not yet formally adopted GHG emissions reduction or energy reduction goals for local government operations. Its legislation requires all of its fleet to be zero-emissions vehicles by 2050. The city partners with Nashville Electric Service to pilot LED streetlight conversion and has installed 1.3 MW of renewable energy systems on municipal buildings. Nashville sets a requirement for minority- and women-owned business enterprise participation in each contract, including a recent Building Energy Modeling contract. Nashville benchmarks all facilities in the city’s Energy Management system and conducts retrofits through an energy revolving fund.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Establish and track metrics related to energy equity.
- Set and track community-wide goals for GHG emissions.
- Adopt solar- and EV-ready requirements in building codes.
- Advocate for and publicize community-wide energy usage information.
- Expand high-quality transit access for low-income residents.
- Develop a city freight plan that increases efficiency.
- Adopt and track a goal for reduction in VMT or transportation sector GHG emissions.

**OVERALL SCORE**

28.5/100

**RANK**

46/100

**MEDIAN SCORES OF PEER CITIES**

(Rapid growth cities in large metros)