

RANK

26/100



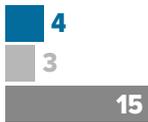
OVERALL SCORE

41/100

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Take additional steps to ensure builders comply with energy codes.
- Adopt energy benchmarking and rental energy disclosure policies.
- Require new policies, programs, plans, and budgeting decisions to undergo structural equity assessments.
- Contribute to the development of a clean energy workforce.
- Expand high-quality transit access for low-income residents.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



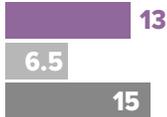
## BUILDINGS POLICIES



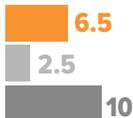
## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

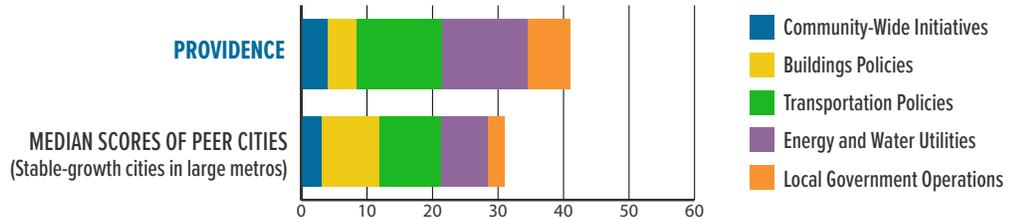


## 2021 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

## PROVIDENCE, RI

Providence performed best in the energy and water utilities category. The city still has several options for improving its score, with the most room for improvement in the buildings policies category.

## HOW DOES PROVIDENCE STACK UP TO PEER CITIES?



## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (4 OF 15 POINTS)

Providence's GHG emissions reduction and renewable energy goals, as well as its equity-driven planning efforts, set the vision for a clean energy future. Based on emissions data from past years, ACEEE projects the city will not achieve its GHG emissions reduction goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. To advance equity-driven planning and implementation, the city created the Racial and Environmental Justice Committee. Further, the Climate Justice Plan includes seven key climate equity indicators and more than 50 strategies that seek to create an equitable, low-carbon future. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city offers height bonuses for the conservation of open space.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (4.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Rhode Island requires all jurisdictions to comply with the State Energy Conservation Code, which references the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. Providence does not advocate for more stringent state energy codes. The city allows solar in all zones, but we could not find information on whether it has adopted solar ordinances or policies requiring buildings to include EV charging infrastructure or be EV ready. Providence does not have programs committed to developing a dedicated energy efficiency or renewable energy workforce. The city offers several incentives to spur clean energy investment in existing buildings such as access to PACE financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. It also provides expedited solar permit reviews for qualifying commercial buildings and has a voluntary energy challenge program.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (13 OF 30 POINTS)

Of low-income households in Providence, 35.2% have access to high-quality transit. With 75 per 100,000 people, the city has a moderate number of EV charging station ports available for public use. Providence has neither a sustainable freight transportation plan in place nor any policies that address freight efficiency. The city has set a goal to reduce VMT 30% from 2008 levels by 2030, and is on pace to meet its target. Transportation entities that serve Providence have received roughly \$78.37 per capita on average in local transit funding annually between 2015 and 2019, a low funding level.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (13 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, National Grid shows high savings as a percentage of sales for electric and natural gas efficiency programs. The utility offers a portfolio of energy efficiency programs for low-income single and multifamily customers, including comprehensive programs. Providence provides community-wide energy use information for planning and evaluation purposes and works to make building energy data available to ratepayers. The city encourages decarbonization by supporting legislation to expand net metering options through a community choice aggregator. National Grid set a moderate target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (6.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Providence has GHG emissions reduction, energy reduction, and clean energy goals for local government operations. Based on past years of emissions data, ACEEE projects the city will achieve its goal of carbon neutrality by 2040. Providence benchmarks the energy use of all municipal buildings and conducts energy retrofits using a whole-building-approach. The city also integrates clean energy into its procurement and construction strategies by purchasing high-efficiency vehicles, converting streetlights to LEDs, and installing 4.75 MW of solar capacity on municipal facilities. We were unable to verify that the city has inclusive procurement policies used for energy projects.