RANK

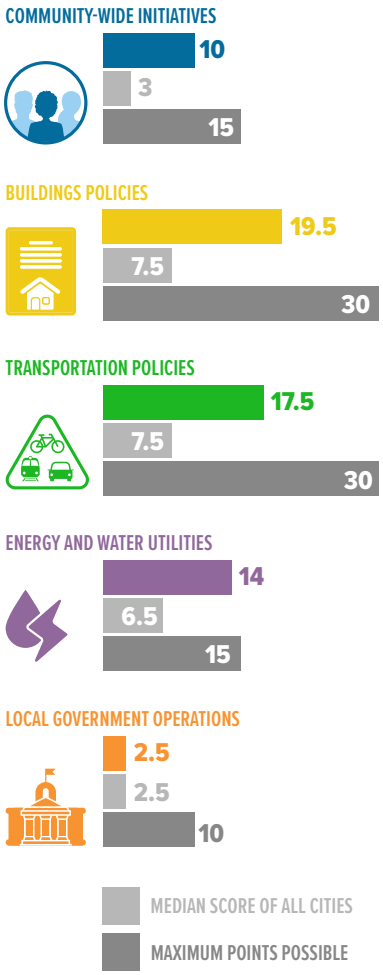
9/100

OVERALL SCORE

63.5/100

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish and track metrics related to energy equity.
- Expand high-quality transit access for low-income residents.
- Develop inclusive procurement and contracting approaches that encourage marginalized community members to participate in city projects.

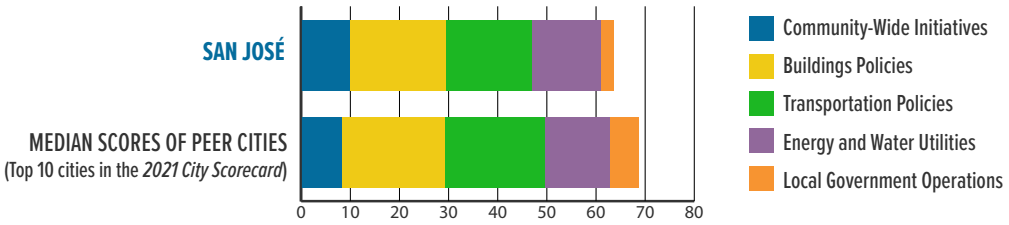


2021 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

SAN JOSÉ, CA

San José broke into the top 10 for the first time in the previous *Scorecard* and maintained its position. The city can improve by making more progress all areas, including local government operations and community-wide initiatives.

HOW DOES SAN JOSÉ STACK UP TO PEER CITIES?



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (10 OF 15 POINTS)

San José's climate change mitigation, energy reduction, and renewable energy goals set the vision for a clean energy future. The city adopted multiple goals, including a long-term climate mitigation goal to reduce emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Based on emissions data from past years, ACEEE projects the city will achieve its near-term, community-wide climate mitigation goal of 4% below 1990 levels by 2021. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, San José aims to plant 100,000 trees by 2022 and requires new developments 5,000 square feet and greater to incorporate low-impact development techniques. The city is also launching a 1.4 MW community solar site.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (19.5 OF 30 POINTS)

For residential and commercial buildings, San José adopted the Reach Code, which requires construction to adhere to additional solar-, EV-, and all electric-readiness requirements, with solar readiness mandated for all building types, including those that aren't covered by state standards. San José requires commercial projects of more than 25,000 square feet but less than 75 feet in height to be LEED Silver certified. Residential developments are required to take GreenPoint and LEED certified actions based on size. The city requires commercial and multifamily buildings to benchmark energy use and perform either an energy audit or building tune-up every five years. San José provides incentives such as PACE financing and expedited permitting to spur clean energy investment. Work2Future, the city's workforce development branch, helps grows an equitable clean energy workforce.

TRANSPORTATION (17.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Of low-income households in San José, 20.6% have access to high-quality transit. With 125 per 100,000 people, the city has a high number of EV charging station ports available for public use. San José's 2040 General Plan contains strategies that address freight efficiency and maintains a goal to reduce the amount of VMT per service population per day in 2040 by 40% relative to the 2009 levels. Transportation entities that serve San José have received roughly $245.54 per capita on average in local transit funding annually between 2015 and 2019, a moderate funding level.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (14 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) shows moderate and high savings as a percentage of sales for electric and natural gas efficiency programs, respectively. PG&E offers a portfolio of energy efficiency programs including comprehensive programs for low-income customers and multifamily properties. San José provides community-wide energy use information for planning and evaluation purposes. It has a data sharing agreement with PG&E, and also advocates for improved data access. San José Clean Energy, the local community choice aggregator, supplies clean energy to the majority of the city's residents and businesses. In 2018, California set a goal to rely entirely on zero-emission energy sources for its electricity by 2045, and PG&E set a moderate goal to achieve this commitment.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (2.5 OF 10 POINTS)

San José set a goal to increase on-site solar capacity on municipal buildings to 11 megawatts by 2021. The city does not have a climate mitigation or GHG emissions reduction goal for municipal operations. It integrates clean energy into its procurement and construction strategies by purchasing efficient vehicles, converting 53% of streetlights to LEDs, and installing 6.5 MW of capacity of onsite renewable energy systems. We were unable to verify if the city has inclusive procurement and contracting processes. San José does not have a comprehensive retrofit strategy.

ACEEE
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy