

OVERALL RANK

17/75

17 out of 57 cities in large metro areas

OVERALL SCORE

38%

96/250 total points

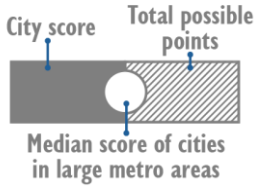
2024 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Austin, TX

Austin was one of the stronger performers among its peers, but it fell in the rankings from the previous scorecard. Austin performed best in the community energy infrastructure category and has the most room to improve in the local government operations category.

Recommendations

- Establish building energy performance standards to reduce energy use and GHG emissions.
- Work with utilities to formalize partnerships with community-based organizations.
- Create or expand bike networks that connect people with a variety of destinations.
- Implement formal inclusive procurement and contracting processes.
- Implement affordability requirements in buildings incentives programs.
- Update zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development.



The following sections highlight Austin’s performance on a few key metrics that ACEEE Scorecard authors identified as high impact. To learn more about Austin’s Scorecard results, visit <https://www.aceee.org/city-clean-energy-scorecard>.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



18/45 Points



Austin is not on track to meet its near-term goal to reduce GHG emissions 75% below 2019 levels by 2030. The city created the Climate Equity Plan Steering Committee to give residents of marginalized communities a formal decision-making role in the creation of the plan.

BUILDING POLICIES



28/70 Points



Austin adopted 2021 IECC with local amendments, exceeding the state code. The city requires solar readiness for new construction and LEED Silver certification for new municipal construction. The city offers incentives such as rebates for energy efficiency improvements and density bonuses for properties meeting green building standards.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



24/70 Points



Austin has not recently updated its zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development, nor does the city require new developments to install EV charging stations. Austin Energy’s Customer Assistance Program offers rebates on e-bikes.

COMMUNITY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE



20.5/40 Points



Austin Energy offers a portfolio of programs targeted to low-income customers and multifamily buildings. The city has partnered with Austin Energy to provide energy efficiency products and services. Austin Energy offers residential customers the option to enroll in a community solar program, and the utility offers income-eligible customers a reduced rate.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



5.5/25 Points



Austin does not have a comprehensive retrofit program. Austin’s streetlights are dark-sky compliant and almost all are LEDs. Efficient vehicles make up 9% of the city’s municipal fleet.



EQUITABLE PRACTICES: 27/85.5 POINTS



Each chapter of the City Scorecard included metrics assessing equitable practices cities are taking to advance clean energy, totaling 85.5 points available across the Scorecard.