

OVERALL RANK

11/75

11 out of 57 cities in large metro areas

OVERALL SCORE

48%

120/250 total points

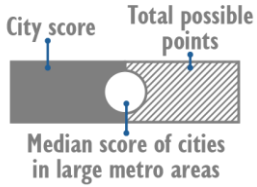
2024 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Boston, MA

Boston was one of the stronger performers among its peers, but it fell in the rankings from the previous scorecard. Boston performed best in the community energy infrastructure category and has the most room to improve in the community-wide initiatives category.

Recommendations

- Adopt a retrocommissioning policy.
- Take an equity-driven approach to shared, distributed energy systems.
- Adopt an energy disclosure requirement for residential rental properties.
- Implement affordability requirements in buildings incentives programs.
- Work with utilities to formalize partnerships with community-based organizations.
- Update zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development.



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

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



13/45 Points



Based on analysis of recent emissions data, ACEEE projects that Boston will achieve at least 75% of its 2030 GHG emissions reduction goal. Boston has conducted community engagement for several clean energy initiatives through public coffee hours with the Mayor, webinars offered in 12 languages, and partnerships with community organizations.

BUILDING POLICIES



29/70 Points



Massachusetts allows local jurisdictions to upgrade their energy codes with a state-determined stretch code, which Boston adopted. This code includes solar- and EV-readiness requirements. Boston offers several energy improvement incentives to a range of projects.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



29/70 Points



Boston has not recently updated its zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development, nor does the city require new developments to install EV charging stations. MBTA offers reduced transit fares to low-income adults age 18–25 through a Youth Pass partner program, and the city offers discounted taxi rides to residents age 65+ and to those with disabilities.

COMMUNITY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE



31.5/40 Points



Massachusetts is served by the Low-Income Energy Affordability Network, which provides low-income efficiency solutions in the state. Boston partners with its energy utilities through the Renew Boston program. The city takes an active role in advising the utility-sponsored energy efficiency programs through a seat on the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



17.5/25 Points



Renew Boston Trust (RBT) is the city's self-financing, strategic program that conducts energy audits and invests in conservation upgrades for municipal buildings. Roughly 86% of Boston's streetlights are LED, and efficient vehicles make up 18% of the city's fleet.



EQUITABLE PRACTICES: 36/85.5 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.

