

OVERALL RANK

12/75

12 out of 57 cities in large metro areas

OVERALL SCORE

46%

114.5/250 total points

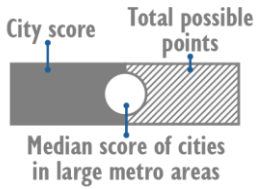
2024 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Chicago, IL

Chicago was one of the stronger performers among its peers, and it maintained its ranking from the previous scorecard. Chicago performed best in the community energy infrastructure category and can notably improve in the community-wide initiatives category.

Recommendations

- Adopt a retrocommissioning policy.
- Take an equity-driven approach to shared, distributed energy systems.
- Track progress toward transportation GHG emissions reduction goals.
- Establish building energy performance standards to reduce energy use and GHG emissions.
- Implement clean energy workforce development initiatives targeting disadvantaged communities.
- Work with utilities to formalize partnerships with community-based organizations.



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

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



11.5/45 Points



Chicago is on track to meet its goal to reduce GHG emissions by 26% below 2005 levels by 2025. Because of limited information, we were unable to determine Chicago's approach to community engagement or workforce development.

BUILDING POLICIES



36.5/70 Points



Chicago adopted the 2022 Chicago Energy Transformation Code based on the 2021 IECC and local provisions, which include solar- and EV-readiness requirements. The city offers several incentives for energy-savings actions, including rebates, grants, PACE financing, and competitive funding.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



27.5/70 Points



Chicago has not recently updated its zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development, nor does the city require new developments to install EV charging stations. Divvy, the city's primary shared micromobility operator, offers discounted memberships to low-income residents participating in certain assistance programs.

COMMUNITY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE



25.5/40 Points



Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) and Peoples Gas offer multiple programs targeted to low-income customers and multifamily properties. Chicago and these utilities partner for Retrofit Chicago and Smart Grid Program to promote energy efficiency.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



13.5/25 Points



Chicago does not have a comprehensive retrofit program, and we were unable to obtain data on Chicago's municipal fleet composition. Chicago has converted 85% of outdoor lights to high-efficiency LEDs.



EQUITABLE PRACTICES: 35.5/85.5 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.

