

OVERALL RANK

32/75

31 out of 57 cities in large metro areas

OVERALL SCORE

29%

72/250 total points

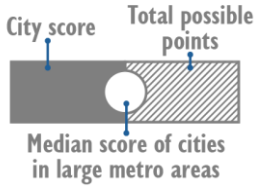
2024 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Columbus, OH

Columbus was in the middle of the pack among its peers, but it fell in the rankings from the previous scorecard. Columbus performed best in the local government operations category and has the most room to improve in the buildings category.

Recommendations

- Create more incentive and financing programs designed for disadvantaged communities.
- Work with utilities to formalize partnerships with community-based organizations.
- Create or expand bike networks that connect people with a variety of destinations.
- Update zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development.
- Advocate to state officials for building energy performance standards.
- Adopt a policy requiring efficient outdoor lighting.



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

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



15/45 Points



Columbus is not on track to meet its near-term community-wide GHG emissions reduction goal. Columbus supports the Empowered Program, which is a clean-energy jobs program focused on recruiting people from communities of color and women.

BUILDING POLICIES



11.5/70 Points



Columbus complies with state-mandated building energy codes. Columbus received a Gold designation through the SolSmart program and allows solar use in all zones. Columbus passed an Equitable Electric Vehicle Ready Parking ordinance.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



15/70 Points



Columbus has not recently updated its zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development. The city requires EV charging stations in 2% of spaces of new multifamily and office buildings and in 1% of commercial building spaces starting in 2024. Columbus and Lyft offer discounted membership to the city's bike share program for residents receiving food, tuition, or utility assistance.

COMMUNITY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE



18/40 Points



American Electric Power (AEP Ohio) and Columbia Gas of Ohio have programs targeted to low-income customers and multifamily properties. Columbus has a formal partnership with AEP Ohio for the Clean Energy Columbus program, which includes a Community Choice Aggregation program that began in 2021.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



12.5/25



The city finished developing a Comprehensive Energy Management Plan in 2020 outlining the steps to reduce municipal building energy and GHG consumption. Roughly 6.5% of streetlights in Columbus are LEDs, and efficient vehicles make up 22% of the municipal fleet.



EQUITABLE PRACTICES: 19.5/85.5 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.

