

OVERALL RANK

34/75

33 out of 57 cities in large metro areas

OVERALL SCORE

28%

70/250 total points

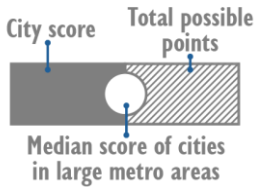
2024 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Houston, TX

Houston was in the middle of the pack among its peers, and its rank stayed the same from the previous scorecard. Houston performed best in the local government operations category and has the most room to improve in the buildings category.

Recommendations

- Adopt energy benchmarking and retrocommissioning policies.
- Establish building energy performance standards to reduce energy use and GHG emissions.
- Implement affordability requirements in buildings incentives programs.
- Work with utilities to formalize partnerships with community-based organizations.
- Create or expand bike networks that connect people with a diversity of destinations.
- Implement clean energy workforce development initiatives targeting disadvantaged communities.



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

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



11.5/45 Points



Houston has a goal to reduce GHG emissions, but there was not sufficient emissions data to determine if it is on track to meet this goal. Houston collaborated with residents to create development plans for 10 disadvantaged communities in a community initiative. The city has an MOU with Houston Community College to train residents in resilience and sustainability.

BUILDING POLICIES



14.5/70 Points



Houston adopted the 2015 IECC for residential and commercial buildings. The city offers energy efficiency financing to commercial and multifamily building owners, and it has two LEED incentive programs.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



15.5/70 Points



In 2023, Houston modified its code to allow developments with three or more residential units in more districts by-right. The city does not require new developments to install EV chargers, and it does not provide subsidized access to efficient transportation options to disadvantaged communities.

COMMUNITY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE



13.5/40 Points



CenterPoint Energy offers one program for low-income customers that pays incentives to project sponsors for energy savings retrofits. Houston helps promote CenterPoint’s energy efficiency programs. Houston is in the process of redeveloping a landfill into a solar farm.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



15/25 Points



Houston uses efficiency requirements and energy audits to determine municipal retrofit projects, funded through its Capital Improvement Plan. Houston takes efforts to decrease its GHG emissions through its fleet procurement policy, which prioritizes electric and hybrid vehicles. Roughly 99% of the city’s streetlights are LEDs.



EQUITABLE PRACTICES: 15.5/85.5 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.