

OVERALL RANK

47/75

4 out of 18 cities in midsize metro areas

OVERALL SCORE

24%

60/250 total points

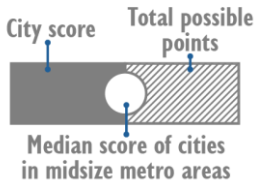
2024 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Knoxville, TN

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

Recommendations

- Implement clean energy workforce development initiatives targeting disadvantaged communities.
- Set and track progress toward VMT reduction goals.
- Adopt energy benchmarking and retrocommissioning policies.
- Adopt a policy requiring efficient outdoor lighting.
- Implement affordability requirements in buildings incentives programs.
- Update zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development.



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

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

9/45 Points



Knoxville is on track to reach its goal to reduce GHG emissions by 80% below 2005 levels by 2050. Knoxville had an Equity Working Group that conducted outreach surveying people in low-income ZIP codes and informed equity-related priorities and strategies in the Sustainability Work Plan.

BUILDING POLICIES

8/70 Points



Knoxville holds jurisdiction over its city's building energy code; the city adopted the 2018 IECC. Knoxville offers financial assistance for residential energy efficiency improvements.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

11.5/70 Points



Knoxville has not recently updated its zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development, nor does the city require new developments to install EV charging stations. Knoxville does not provide subsidized access to efficient transportation options for disadvantaged communities.

COMMUNITY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

21/40 Points



Knoxville Utilities Board (KUB) offers multiple low-income energy efficiency programs but does not have a program targeted at multifamily properties. Knoxville and KUB have an agreement to host a 1MW community solar array; the city has purchased 25% of shares.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

10.5/25



The city's Office of Sustainability created a Sustainable Innovation Fund in 2020 to augment facility energy efficiency improvements and provide staff training. All streetlights have been converted to LEDs, and efficient vehicles make up 1% of Knoxville's fleet.



EQUITABLE PRACTICES: 24.5/85.5 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.

