

OVERALL RANK

36/75

35 out of 57 cities in large metro areas

OVERALL SCORE

28%

69.5/250 total points

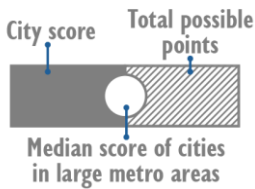
2024 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Providence, RI

Providence is in the middle of the pack among its peers, but it fell in the rankings from the previous scorecard. Providence performed best in the community energy infrastructure category and has the most room to improve in the buildings category.

Recommendations

- Create more incentive and financing programs designed for disadvantaged communities.
- Track progress toward VMT reduction goals.
- Work with utilities to formalize partnerships with community-based organizations.
- Create or expand bike networks that connect people with a diversity of destinations.
- Advocate to state officials for building energy performance standards.
- Update zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development.



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

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



13/45 Points



Providence is not on track to meet its goal to become carbon neutral by 2050. The Racial and Environmental Justice Committee (REJC) is leading Providence’s climate planning engagement process. The city is working with the REJC to launch two Green Justice Zones to deepen collaboration with Providence’s frontline communities.

BUILDING POLICIES



9.5/70 Points



Providence is required to comply with Rhode Island’s building energy codes. Providence requires new municipal buildings to achieve LEED standards. Providence offers commercial property owners PACE financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



14.5/70 Points



Providence has not recently updated its zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development, nor does the city require new developments to install EV charging stations. Providence partners with Spin to offer discounted e-scooter rides and bike rides to residents without smartphones, mobile location services, or credit cards.

COMMUNITY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE



26/40 Points



Narragansett Electric offers an energy assistance program to low-income customers and an energy services program for multifamily properties. The city has several partnerships with Narragansett Electric to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy, including RePowerPVD, a voluntary energy challenge program.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



6.5/25



The city worked with the Department of Energy, NBI, Maalka, and EcoEdge to develop a Strategic Energy Plan and has a full-time energy manager who manages the city’s energy efficiency work. All of the city’s streetlights are LEDs.



EQUITABLE PRACTICES: 21/85.5 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.

