

OVERALL RANK

59/75

50 out of 57 cities in large metro areas

OVERALL SCORE

19%

48/250 total points

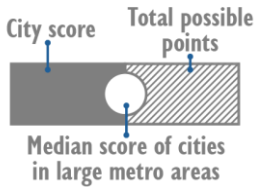
2024 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Rochester, NY

Rochester was one of the weaker performers among its peers, and it fell in the rankings from the previous scorecard. Rochester performed best in the community energy infrastructure category and can notably improve in the community-wide initiatives category.

Recommendations

- Adopt energy benchmarking and retrocommissioning policies.
- Take an equity-driven approach to shared, distributed energy systems.
- Set and track progress toward VMT reduction goals.
- 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.



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

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



0/45 Points



Rochester 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. Because of limited information, we were unable to determine Rochester’s approach to community engagement or workforce development.

BUILDING POLICIES



13/70 Points



Rochester complies with the 2020 New York State Code but has not adopted a stretch code. Rochester offers home energy improvement incentives through the Sustainable Homes Rochester program, as well as PACE financing.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



11.5/70 Points



Rochester has not recently updated its zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development, nor does the city require new developments to install EV charging stations. Veo, the city’s shared micromobility operator, offers discounted rates for residents who participate in government assistance programs.

COMMUNITY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE



19/40 Points



Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E) works with Rochester to administer the low-income energy efficiency program and has collaborated on the EV Accelerator program. RG&E does not offer its own programs targeted at low-income customers, but it has a multifamily energy efficiency program. Rochester has a community choice aggregation program supporting renewable energy, the Rochester Community Power program.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



4.5/25 Points



Rochester does not have a comprehensive retrofit strategy to decrease municipal energy use, but the city has upgraded approximately 50% of streetlights to LEDs, and efficient vehicles make up 6.3% of the city’s fleet.



EQUITABLE PRACTICES: 13/85.5 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.

