San Antonio, TX

San Antonio is in the middle of the pack among its peers, but it rose in the rankings from the previous scorecard. San Antonio performed best in the local government operations category and has the most room to improve in the transportation category.

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

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

San Antonio is not on track to meet its GHG emissions reduction goal. The city has two committees advising the implementation of the Climate Action Plan, one of residents who identify barriers and solutions to climate challenges and one of community-based organizations representing the interests of disadvantaged communities.

BUILDING POLICIES

San Antonio has adopted the 2021 IECC, which includes solar- and EV-readiness policies. San Antonio offers several incentives for efficiency projects, including through PACE, the STEP program, and Under One Roof program.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

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

COMMUNITY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

CPS Energy, a municipally operated utility, offers the Casa Verde Weatherization Program to qualified low-income customers. CPS Energy provides technical and planning assistance for residential and commercial clean distributed energy systems.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

The city’s Energy Efficiency Fund allows the Office of Sustainability to analyze utility bills, engineering assessments, and historical facilities knowledge annually to select energy projects that will have the greatest impact on energy reductions. Roughly 80% of streetlights in San Antonio are LEDs, and efficient vehicles make up 20% of the city’s fleet.

Recommendations

- Adopt benchmarking and retrocommissioning policies.
- Take an equity-driven approach to shared, distributed energy systems.
- 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.

COMMUNITY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

CPS Energy, a municipally operated utility, offers the Casa Verde Weatherization Program to qualified low-income customers. CPS Energy provides technical and planning assistance for residential and commercial clean distributed energy systems.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

The city’s Energy Efficiency Fund allows the Office of Sustainability to analyze utility bills, engineering assessments, and historical facilities knowledge annually to select energy projects that will have the greatest impact on energy reductions. Roughly 80% of streetlights in San Antonio are LEDs, and efficient vehicles make up 20% of the city’s fleet.

EQUITABLE PRACTICES: 16.5/85.5 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.