

OVERALL RANK

3/75

3 out of 57 cities in large metro areas

OVERALL SCORE

62%

154/250 total points

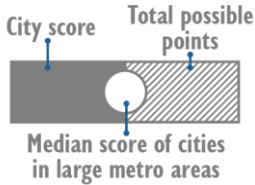
2024 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Seattle, WA

Seattle was one of the strongest performers among its peers, but it fell in the rankings from the previous scorecard. Seattle performed best in the local government operations category and has the most room to improve in the buildings category.

Recommendations

- Work with utilities to formalize partnerships with community-based organizations.
- Create resilience hubs with clean energy resources sited in disadvantaged communities.
- Implement affordability requirements in buildings incentives programs.
- Update zoning code to allow for more density in residential neighborhoods and mixed-use development by-right.
- Adopt an energy disclosure requirement for residential rental properties.
- Adopt a policy requiring efficient outdoor lighting.



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

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



33/45 Points



Seattle is not on track to meet its near-term goal to reduce GHG emissions 58% below 2008 levels by 2030. The city collaborated with marginalized residents living in South Park to create the Duwamish Valley Action Plan, and the city’s Environmental Justice Committee allows residents most affected by inequities to influence the city’s Equity and Environment Agenda.

BUILDING POLICIES



34.5/70 Points



Seattle is required to comply with Washington’s State Energy Code for residential properties but has adopted its own energy code for commercial properties. Seattle offers efficiency incentives such as expedited permitting, rebates, affordable loans, and financing.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



41.5/70 Points



Seattle has not recently updated its zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development. The statewide code requires most developments to install EV charging stations in 10% of parking spaces. Seattle provides residents of Seattle Housing Authority properties with unlimited-use ORCA cards, which provide access to transit service from several agencies.

COMMUNITY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE



26/40 Points



Seattle City Light (SCL) and Puget Sound Energy offer several programs for low-income customers and multifamily properties. Because SCL is powered by carbon-free energy sources, primarily hydroelectric, the city achieved zero emissions per capita in 2019.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



19/25 Points



The Mayor’s Climate Strategy included a commitment to double its budget allocation from 2021 to 2025 and set a new target to achieve an overall 40% energy and carbon emissions reduction in municipal buildings by 2025. Roughly 86% of San Francisco’s streetlights are LEDs, and efficient vehicles make up 28% of its fleet.



EQUITABLE PRACTICES: 45/85.5 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.

