

RANK

83 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Akron

OVERALL SCORE

12 / 100

While Akron has some achievements, the city has few clean energy policies and substantial room for improvement across all categories, particularly in local government operations. To address energy waste in municipal operations, Akron can seek to convert streetlights to LEDs and benchmark and upgrade municipal buildings. The city can also work to make private buildings more energy efficient, encourage the decarbonization of the power system, and create a sustainable transportation plan to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) citywide. These could serve as stepping-stones to a clean energy future.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



BUILDINGS POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

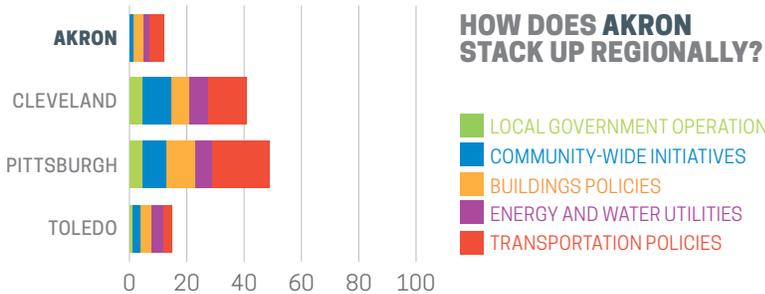


TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (0 OF 10 POINTS)

Akron has adopted a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goal for local government operations. ACEEE was unable to project if the city will achieve its near-term, local government operations climate mitigation goal of 20% below 2005 levels by 2025 because insufficient GHG emissions data were available for our analysis. Otherwise, Akron has few initiatives to reduce GHG emissions and energy use in local government operations. Akron can reduce emissions from its existing buildings by benchmarking building energy use, developing a comprehensive retrofit strategy, and conducting energy retrofits. It can also increase clean energy by setting fleet efficiency requirements, converting streetlights to LED, and installing onsite renewable energy systems.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (1.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Akron's GHG emissions reduction goal sets the vision for a clean energy future. ACEEE was unable to project if the city will achieve its community-wide GHG emissions reduction goal of 20% below 2005 levels by 2025 because insufficient GHG emissions data were available for our analysis. Akron supported the creation of district energy within the city. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city can adopt citywide energy efficiency and renewable energy goals and take an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (3.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Ohio requires all jurisdictions to enforce the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code for residential buildings and the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code for commercial buildings. Akron can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its buildings sector by adopting energy efficiency policies for existing buildings (such as building energy benchmarking requirements), offering incentives, and developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (2 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, FirstEnergy (Ohio Edison) shows moderate savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs. Dominion Energy Ohio shows low savings for natural gas efficiency programs. While neither utility currently offers multifamily energy efficiency programs, Dominion Energy Ohio provides an energy efficiency program targeted at low-income customers. Akron can encourage the decarbonization of the power system and work to increase the energy and water efficiency of its water services.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (5 OF 30 POINTS)

Akron has adopted a complete streets policy; however, it has not adopted a sustainable transportation plan, goals to reduce VMT/GHG emissions from transportation, or mode shift targets. Adopting and tracking progress toward these goals would help lay the groundwork for transportation action. Relative to other cities, Akron's transit system is moderately funded but can improve in accessibility; ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world. Akron can further promote sustainable transportation within the city by encouraging or requiring the creation of affordable housing units in transit-served areas and offering incentives for the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.