

RANK

12 / 100

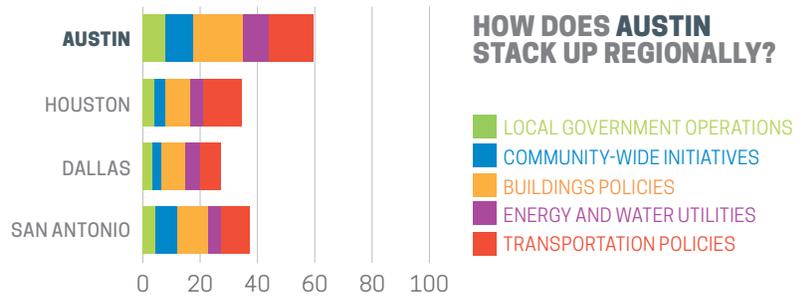
2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

# Austin

OVERALL SCORE

59.5 / 100

Austin earned top-10 scores in the local government operations, community-wide initiatives, and buildings policies categories, showing the city's commitment to clean energy is strong. The city tied for the highest score in local government operations due to our projection that it will achieve its local government greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goal, its use of 100% renewable energy to power municipal operations, and the existence of an energy efficiency goal. To boost its rank in future editions of the *Scorecard*, Austin can take steps to further improve its performance in the transportation policies category.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (8 OF 10 POINTS)

Austin has GHG emissions reduction and clean energy goals for local government operations. Based on past years of emissions data, ACEEE projects the city will achieve its goal of local government operations carbon neutrality by 2020. Austin benchmarks building energy use, identifies energy efficiency opportunities, and conducts retrocommissioning at multiple municipal buildings. The city also integrates clean energy strategies into its procurement and construction strategies; it requires the procurement of efficient vehicles, converts streetlights to LEDs, and has installed over 50 onsite municipal solar projects.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (9.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Austin's climate change mitigation and renewable energy goals set the vision for a clean energy future. The city adopted multiple climate goals, including a long-term climate change mitigation goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. Based on past years of emissions data, ACEEE projects the city will achieve its near-term, community-wide climate change mitigation goal of 25% below 2010 levels by 2020. Austin Energy supported the creation of district energy and community solar within the city.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (17.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Austin adopted the 2015 City of Austin Energy Code for residential and commercial buildings with local amendments. New residential and commercial buildings must adhere to solar- and electric vehicle-readiness requirements. To address existing buildings, the Energy Conservation Audit and Disclosure Ordinance requires all homes and multifamily buildings that are 10 years and older to have an energy audit performed. Home sellers must disclose results to prospective buyers, and owners of multifamily buildings must disclose results to prospective renters. Multifamily properties must also reduce energy use if the property's energy use is too high. The city's support for the Austin Clean Tech Incubator helps grow the clean energy workforce.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (9 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Austin Energy and Texas Gas Services report low savings as a percentage of sales for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Austin Energy offers multiple energy efficiency programs for low-income and multifamily customers. Texas Gas Service provides a low-income program but does not currently offer an energy efficiency program targeted toward multifamily properties. In 2018, Austin Energy produced 43% of its total general generation from renewable sources. Multiple efforts also aim to increase energy and water efficiency in water services.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (15.5 OF 30 POINTS)

The Imagine Austin Plan, Urban Trails Master Plan, and Austin Climate Plan outline sustainable transportation strategies. The city has not yet adopted quantitative goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled/GHG emissions from transportation. Adopting and tracking progress toward these goals would help lay the groundwork for transportation action. Austin has set mode share targets to decrease single occupancy vehicle trips 10% and increase bicycle trips 15% by 2020. Relative to other city systems, Austin'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. Austin Energy encourages electric vehicle uptake by offering incentives for charging infrastructure and providing public charging stations. Austin can further promote sustainable transportation by adopting policies to encourage energy efficiency in freight movement.



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

8

2.5

10



### COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

9.5

3

15



### BUILDINGS POLICIES

17.5

7

30



### ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

9

5.5

15



### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

15.5

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE