

RANK

2 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

# Boston

Boston tied for second place in the *Scorecard* by continuing to prioritize clean energy in its local policy decision making. Boston continues to be a leader for its buildings policies due to its stringent building energy code and the benchmarking and energy action requirements established by the Building Energy Reporting and Disclosure Ordinance. In addition, the city recently updated its Electric Vehicle Readiness Policy to include more stringent requirements. Boston once again earned among the highest scores in the energy and water utilities area due to the efficiency efforts of the energy utility serving the city and the work of Renew Boston. The city has also made efforts to increase the share of renewable energy in the grid mix. Boston's strong policies should continue to keep it near the top, but the city does have room to improve its score.

OVERALL SCORE

73 / 100



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

8

2.5

10



## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

8.5

3

15



## BUILDINGS POLICIES

20.5

7

30



## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

13.5

5.5

15



## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

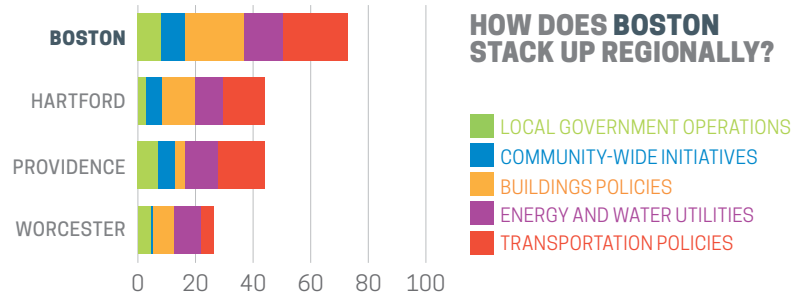
22.5

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (8 OF 10 POINTS)

Boston has greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and energy reduction goals for local government operations. Based on past years of emissions data, ACEEE projects the city will achieve its near-term climate mitigation goal for local government operations to reduce GHG emissions 60% below 2005 levels by 2030. Boston benchmarks energy use in all municipal buildings and identifies energy efficiency opportunities. The city conducts retrofits in municipal buildings through the Renew Boston Trust. Boston integrates clean energy into its procurement and construction strategies; the city sets multiple efficiency requirements for its municipal fleet, installs onsite renewable systems in municipal facilities, and has converted more than 76% of streetlights to LEDs.

### COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (8.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Boston's climate change mitigation and renewable energy goals set the vision for a clean energy future. The city has adopted a long-term climate mitigation goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. Based on past years of emissions data, ACEEE projects Boston will achieve its near-term, community-wide climate mitigation goal of 50% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2030. Boston supports the creation of distributed energy systems within the city through the Smart Utilities Policy, which also requires developers to integrate emissions-reducing technologies into these systems. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, Boston seeks to increase the tree canopy to 35% by 2020 and enforces the Local Wetlands Ordinance.

### BUILDINGS POLICIES (20.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Boston adopted the Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code for residential and commercial buildings. New residential and commercial buildings must also adhere to solar- and electric vehicle-readiness requirements. To achieve energy reductions in existing buildings, the city adopted the Building Energy Reporting and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO). BERDO requires commercial and multifamily buildings to benchmark energy use and choose an energy reduction strategy through the Energy Action and Assessment requirement. Boston also offers several incentives for clean energy to building owners.

### ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (13.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Eversource and National Grid achieved high savings as a percentage of sales for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Both utilities also offer comprehensive energy efficiency programs for low-income and multifamily customers. The city partners with its energy utilities to promote energy efficiency through the Renew Boston program. Boston encourages the decarbonization of the power system in several ways, including pursuing a municipal aggregation program.

### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (22.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Go Boston 2030 includes a goal to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) 5.5% below 2005 levels by 2020 and several mode share targets. Based on the years for which data was available, Boston has made progress towards both its VMT reduction goal and mode share targets. Relative to other city systems, Boston's transit system is well funded and accessible but ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world. Boston's zoning code includes several location-efficient provisions, such as smart growth overlays that promote mixed-use communities and density bonuses for transit-oriented development. The Inclusionary Development Policy preserves access to affordable housing in transit-served areas.