

RANK

43 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

# Buffalo

OVERALL SCORE

27.5 / 100

Buffalo had its best performance in the energy and water utilities category, due in part to the low-income and multifamily efficiency programs offered by National Grid and NYSERDA, as well as the city's comments to the Public Service Commission encouraging more distributed generation. Its next best performance was in local government operations due to the city's asset management policies. Buffalo's recent adoption of the New York State 2020 Energy Conservation Construction Code helped the city's score in buildings policies. Buffalo can improve across all policy areas to advance its rank in the next edition of the *Scorecard*, most notably in community-wide initiatives and buildings policies.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

3.5

2.5

10



## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

1.5

3

15



## BUILDINGS POLICIES

7

7

30



## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

6.5

5.5

15



## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

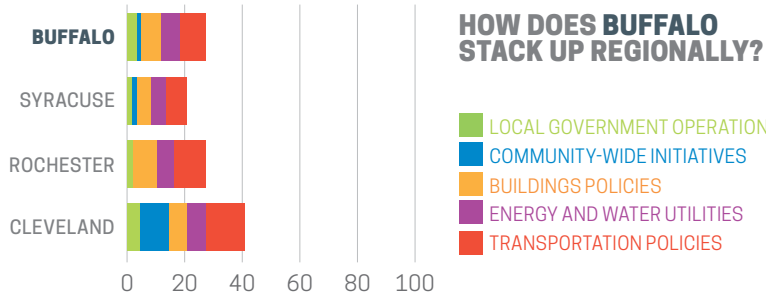
9

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Buffalo has adopted an energy reduction goal for local government operations. The city benchmarks all municipal building energy use, identifies efficiency retrofits through energy audits, and conducted retrofits at 17 buildings. Buffalo is in the process of converting streetlights to LEDs through an improvement program that aligns lighting upgrades with ongoing streetscape projects. To further integrate clean energy into its procurement and construction strategies, Buffalo can set efficiency requirements for its municipal fleet and install onsite renewable energy systems.

### COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (1.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Buffalo operates a district energy system that serves both public and private buildings. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city's Green Code requires new developments to use low-impact development techniques. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the Buffalo can adopt citywide climate and energy goals and take an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning.

### BUILDINGS POLICIES (7 OF 30 POINTS)

Buffalo requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code, which references the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code. The Buffalo Public Schools help grow the renewable energy workforce by offering solar energy education, training, and certification to high school students. Buffalo can do more to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its buildings sector by adopting energy efficiency policies (such as benchmarking requirements) for existing buildings.

### ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (6.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, National Grid and NYSERDA show high savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs. NYSERDA offers the EmPower New York program to low-income residential National Grid customers, as well as its Multifamily Performance Program. National Fuel Gas shows low savings as a percentage of sales for natural gas efficiency programs. Buffalo has provided comments to the New York Public Service Commission (PSC) regarding the transparency of utility data. Buffalo has also encouraged efforts to decarbonize the electric grid; it has submitted comments to the PSC requesting more distributed, renewable generation. Buffalo can further encourage energy and water efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (9 OF 30 POINTS)

Buffalo has abolished minimum parking requirements citywide, encouraging enhanced location efficiency. The Bicycle Facilities Master Plan sets the vision for a multimodal future and adopts a mode shift target of 10% by 2025 for cycling trips. To accelerate progress towards this target, the city can adopt a more comprehensive complete streets policy and increase the number of bikes in Reddy Bikeshare. Buffalo 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. Relative to other city systems, Buffalo's transit system is moderately funded and accessible; ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world.