

RANK

13 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

# Chicago

Chicago continues to be one of the clean energy leaders for buildings policies, earning a top-five score in the area. Several factors drove the city's strong performance, including Chicago's adoption of the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code, an electric vehicle readiness ordinance, and several efforts to increase energy efficiency in existing buildings. The city also performed well in energy and water utilities, due in part to city support for the Illinois Clean Energy Jobs Act and the strengthened statewide renewable energy goals contained in the legislation. To increase its rank in the next *Scorecard*, Chicago can improve its performance in transportation policies and local government operations.

OVERALL SCORE

57 / 100



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

2.5

2.5

10



## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

8

3

15



## BUILDINGS POLICIES

20

7

30



## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

11.5

5.5

15



## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

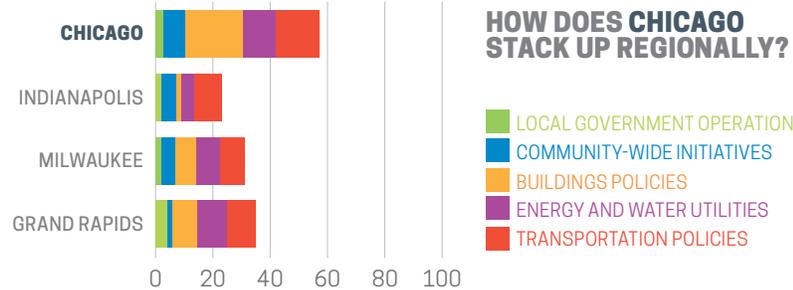
15

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (2.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Chicago has greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and renewable energy goals for local government operations. ACEEE was unable to project if the city will achieve its near-term local government operations climate mitigation goal of 26–28% below 2005 levels by 2025 because insufficient GHG emissions data were available for our analysis. Chicago benchmarks all municipal buildings over 50,000 square feet and conducts retrofits through contacts with energy services companies. The city integrates clean energy strategies into its procurement and construction efforts; Chicago has multiple targets for increasing efficiency in its municipal fleet and converts streetlights to LEDs.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (8 OF 15 POINTS)

Chicago's climate change mitigation, energy reduction, and renewable energy goals set the vision for a clean energy future. Based on past years of emissions data, ACEEE projects the city will achieve its community-wide climate change mitigation goal of reducing emissions 26% below 2005 levels by 2025. Chicago supported the creation of community solar within the city, and aims to plant one million trees and install rooftop gardens on 6,000 buildings by 2020 to mitigate the urban heat island effect.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (20 OF 30 POINTS)

Chicago requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code with local amendments. It recently adopted more stringent electric vehicle-ready requirements for new commercial and multifamily buildings. To achieve energy reductions in existing buildings, the city requires commercial and multifamily buildings to benchmark annual energy use in accordance with the Chicago Energy Use Benchmarking Ordinance. The Energy Rating System requires benchmarked buildings to post an energy rating in a prominent location and disclose the rating at the time of sale. Residential building owners must disclose the electric and natural gas costs at the time of rent or sale. The Chicago Retrofit Challenge and city-offered incentives further spur clean energy investment.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (11.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, ComEd shows high savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs; Peoples Gas reports low savings as a percentage of sales for natural gas efficiency programs. Both utilities offer multiple low-income and multifamily energy efficiency programs. The city encourages the decarbonization of the electric grid by partnering with ComEd's Community of the Future program, which includes a microgrid and several other pilots. Multiple efforts also aim to increase energy and water efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (15 OF 30 POINTS)

The Chicago Forward plan and Sustainable Chicago 2015 Action Agenda set the vision for an efficient and multimodal transportation system. Chicago is a leader in encouraging public uptake of electric vehicles. The city administers the Drive Clean Truck, Drive Clean Taxi, and Drive Clean Station to incentivize alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure. Relative to other city systems, Chicago's transit system is accessible, but the city can take steps to direct investment towards transit services. The Transit-Oriented Development Ordinance encourages location-efficient development.