

RANK

29 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Columbus

Columbus has taken positive steps since the 2019 City Scorecard. With the adoption of the Energy and Water Benchmarking and Transparency Policy in March 2020, the city became the first in Ohio to adopt a mandatory benchmarking and disclosure ordinance. Columbus had its best overall achievements in the energy and water utilities category, due in part to the city's efficiency efforts in water and wastewater services, as well as the low-income and multifamily program offerings of the utilities serving the city. Columbus has several options to improve its rank, most notably in the buildings policies category.

OVERALL SCORE

41 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

3.5

2.5

10



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

8.5

3

15



BUILDINGS POLICIES

7.5

7

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

9.5

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

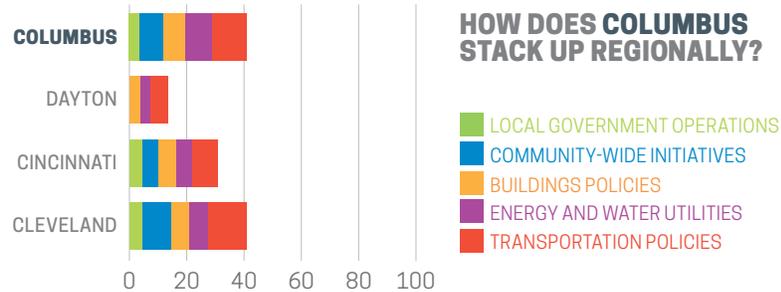
12

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Columbus benchmarks approximately 98% of municipal building energy use. The city also integrates clean energy into its procurement and construction strategies by purchasing high-efficiency vehicles and converting streetlights to LEDs. Columbus has greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and clean energy goals for local government operations. Based on past years of emissions data, ACEEE projects the city will not achieve its near-term climate mitigation goal for local government operations to reduce GHG emissions 30% below 2005 levels by 2020. To continue its efforts, Columbus can install onsite renewable energy systems and create a comprehensive retrofit strategy for municipal buildings.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (8.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Columbus's GHG emissions reduction, 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 come close to achieving its community-wide GHG emissions reduction goal of 20% below 2013 levels by 2020. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city has a goal to plant 300,000 trees by 2020. Columbus has not adopted a formal policy, rule, or agreement supporting the creation of district energy, microgrids, or community solar.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (7.5 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. Columbus advocates for more stringent state energy codes. To achieve energy reductions in existing buildings, Columbus requires commercial and multifamily buildings to benchmark energy usage annually in accordance with the Energy and Water Transparency Ordinance. The Community Energy Advocate program helps grow the energy efficiency workforce. Columbus can do more to reduce GHG emissions from its buildings sector by adopting additional energy efficiency policies for existing buildings (such as retrocommissioning requirements) and further developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (9.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, American Electric Power (AEP Ohio) shows moderate savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs. Columbia Gas of Ohio reports low savings for its natural gas programs. Both utilities offer multiple energy efficiency programs for low-income customers and multifamily properties. Columbus has encouraged efforts to decarbonize the electric grid; for example, the city is working with AEP Ohio to develop a microgrid demonstration project, and supported the utility's proposal to install 900 MW of renewable energy in Ohio. Multiple efforts also aim to increase energy and water efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (12 OF 30 POINTS)

Columbus has adopted commercial zoning overlays and abolished minimum parking requirements around transit stations. The city has also encouraged energy efficiency in freight movement. While the Climate Action Plan includes energy-efficient transportation provisions, Columbus 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, Columbus's transit system is underfunded and can improve in accessibility.