

RANK

80 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

# El Paso

El Paso had some achievements, but the city has few clean energy policies, leaving room for improvement across all categories, particularly community-wide initiatives. El Paso can pursue foundational clean energy policies like establishing climate and energy goals. The city can also work to make its municipal and private buildings more energy efficient and create a sustainable transportation plan to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) citywide. These could serve as stepping-stones to a clean energy future.

OVERALL SCORE

14 / 100



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

1.5

2.5

10



## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

0.5

3

15



## BUILDINGS POLICIES

4.5

7

30



## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

3.5

5.5

15



## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

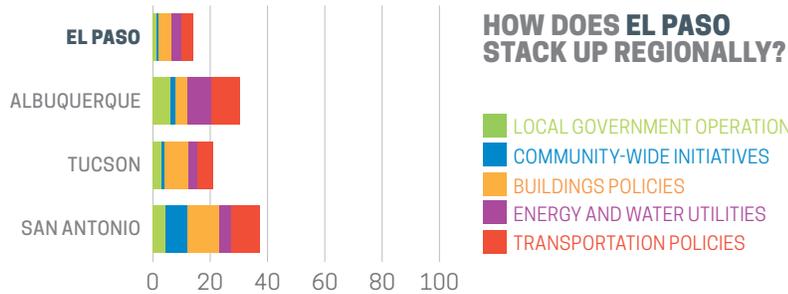
4

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (1.5 OF 10 POINTS)

El Paso has an energy reduction goal for local government operations. The city requires the purchase of hybrid or alternative-fuel vehicles, installs onsite renewable energy systems, and converts streetlights to LEDs. Currently, 60% of streetlights in El Paso are LEDs. To further guide efforts, El Paso can adopt climate change mitigation and renewable energy goals. The city can also benchmark building energy use and adopt a comprehensive retrofit strategy.

### COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (0.5 OF 15 POINTS)

El Paso helps reduce the urban heat island effect by allowing for the transfer of development rights in certain zones to protect wetlands, but has pursued few other community-wide initiatives. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city can adopt citywide climate and renewable energy goals, take an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning, and adopt a formal policy, rule, or agreement that supports the creation of clean, distributed energy systems within the community.

### BUILDINGS POLICIES (4.5 OF 30 POINTS)

El Paso requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code with local amendments. The city offers property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing to spur clean energy investment. The Resilient Ambassadors program helps grow the energy efficiency workforce. El Paso can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its buildings sector by adopting energy efficiency policies for existing buildings (such as building energy benchmarking requirements) and further developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

### ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (3.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, El Paso Electric and Texas Gas show low savings as a percentage of sales for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Texas Gas does not offer energy efficiency programs for either low-income customers or multifamily properties. El Paso Electric provides a program for low-income energy efficiency. El Paso facilitates a Regional Renewable Energy Advisory Council, which advocates for the use and development of renewable energy in the city. The city also has made efforts that aim to increase the energy and water efficiency of water services and wastewater treatment plants. El Paso can advocate for better access to utility data.

### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (4 OF 30 POINTS)

El Paso implements a smart code that promotes walkability around transit stations; however, the city has not adopted a sustainable transportation plan, goals to reduce VMT/GHG emissions from transportation, or mode shift targets. Adopting and tracking progress toward these goals would help lay the groundwork for transportation action. Relative to other city systems, El Paso'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. El Paso can further promote sustainable transportation within the city by subsidizing efficient transportation options for low-income residents.