

RANK

34 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

# Houston

Recent efforts helped Houston's performance since the last *Scorecard*. The recently adopted Houston Climate Action Plan adopted new greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and renewable goals and had scoring implications for the local government operations, community-wide initiatives, and transportation policies categories. Houston had its best achievements in the transportation policies category. Houston can improve its rank and performance across all policy areas, but particularly in community-wide initiatives and buildings policies.

OVERALL SCORE

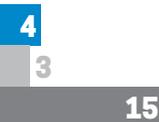
34.5 / 100



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



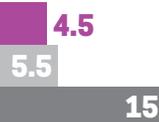
## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



## BUILDINGS POLICIES



## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

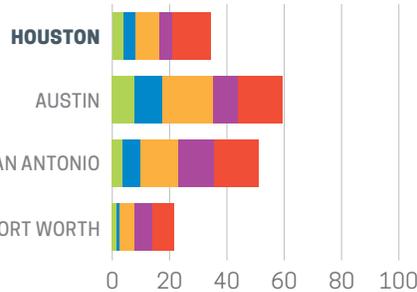


## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



## HOW DOES HOUSTON STACK UP REGIONALLY?



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (4 OF 10 POINTS)

Houston benchmarks the energy use of all municipal buildings and conducts retrofits through the city's municipal energy efficiency program. It requires the purchase of low-emissions vehicles for its fleet and has converted 95% of its outdoor lights to LEDs. Houston has adopted GHG emissions reduction and clean energy goals for local government operations. ACEEE was unable to project if the city will achieve its near-term climate mitigation goal for local government operations of 40% below 2014 levels by 2030 because insufficient GHG emissions data were available for our analysis.

### COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (4 OF 15 POINTS)

Houston's GHG emissions reduction, energy reduction, and renewable energy goals set the vision for a clean energy future. The city adopted community-wide GHG goals, including a long-term goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. ACEEE was unable to project if the city will achieve its near-term, community-wide climate mitigation goal of 40% below 2014 levels by 2020 because insufficient GHG emissions data were available for our analysis. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city adopted a goal to plant 4.6 million native trees by 2030. Houston has not adopted a formal policy, rule, or agreement supporting the creation of district energy, microgrids, or community solar.

### BUILDINGS POLICIES (8.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Houston enforces the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with local amendments for commercial and residential buildings, as well as ASHRAE 90.1-2013 with amendments for commercial buildings. To achieve energy reductions in existing buildings, the city offers incentives. Solar energy training at Houston Community College helps grow the renewable energy workforce. Houston can do more to reduce GHGs in its buildings sector by adopting energy efficiency policies (such as benchmarking requirements) for existing structures and further developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

### ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (4.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, CenterPoint Energy shows low savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs. It does not report spending or savings on natural gas efficiency programs. The utility offers energy efficiency programs for low-income customers and multifamily programs. In an effort to encourage the decarbonization of the electric grid, Houston launched a power purchase agreement in 2017. Multiple efforts aim to increase the energy and water efficiency of water services and wastewater treatment plants. Houston can create formal partnerships with CenterPoint Energy to advance climate and clean energy strategies and participate in additional activities to encourage utility-scale or distributed renewable energy generation.

### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (13.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Houston's Climate Action Plan includes a goal to reduce vehicle miles traveled 20% below 2020 levels by 2050. The Houston Drives Electric and EVolve Houston initiatives aim to create a citywide network of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, some of which will be powered by renewables. Houston eliminated parking requirements in the central business district. Relative to other city systems, Houston's transit system is moderately funded and somewhat accessible; ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world. Houston can promote sustainable transportation by adopting zoning code amendments that encourage transit-oriented, mixed-used development and offering incentives for the purchase of efficient vehicles.