

RANK

36 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

# Las Vegas

Las Vegas had its best achievements in the local government operations category. Its showing was due in part to the city's benchmarking and upgrades of municipal buildings, LED streetlight upgrades, and municipal climate and energy goals. Several of these initiatives were supported by the adoption of R-32-2017. To advance its rank in the next edition of the *Scorecard*, Las Vegas can improve across all policy areas, notably community-wide initiatives and buildings policies.

OVERALL SCORE

31 / 100



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

6

2.5

10



## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

2

3

15



## BUILDINGS POLICIES

9

7

30



## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

4

5.5

15



## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

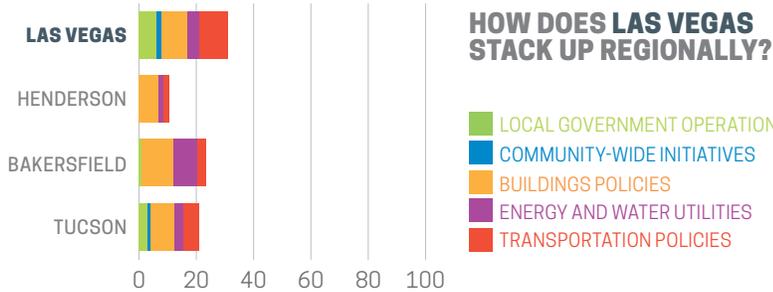
10

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (6 OF 10 POINTS)

Las Vegas's draft Master Plan includes greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and clean energy goals, but the city has not yet adopted the plan. Las Vegas benchmarks energy use in all municipal buildings and implements energy efficiency upgrades in buildings in accordance with Resolution-32-2017. The city integrates clean energy into its procurement and construction strategies by purchasing efficient vehicles, converting streetlights to LEDs, and installing onsite renewable energy systems in municipal buildings. Las Vegas also allows flexible scheduling to reduce emissions related to employee commutes.

### COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (2 OF 15 POINTS)

To mitigate the urban heat island effect, Las Vegas aims to increase the urban tree canopy to 20% by 2035 and requires developments greater than one acre to use low-impact development techniques. To inspire future clean energy efforts, Las Vegas can adopt citywide climate and 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 (9 OF 30 POINTS)

Las Vegas requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code. The codes are highly stringent when compared to building energy codes in effect in other cities. Due to zoning code amendments, the city allows solar energy use throughout the city. Las Vegas can do more to reduce GHG emissions in existing buildings by adopting energy efficiency policies (such as benchmarking requirements) for existing buildings and developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

### ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (4 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, NV Energy shows low savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs. Southwest Gas does not report spending or savings on natural gas efficiency programs. Neither utility offers energy efficiency programs targeted at low-income customers or multifamily properties. Las Vegas advocates in favor of utility-scale and distributed generation, greater Renewable Portfolio Standards, and net metering at the Nevada Public Utilities Commission. Multiple efforts aim to increase the energy and water efficiency of water services and wastewater treatment plants.

### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (10 OF 30 POINTS)

Las Vegas has adopted form-based codes to encourage location-efficient development and the creation of affordable housing units in transit-served areas. The city has set mode shift targets to increase walking, biking, and transit. While the Mobility Master Plan sets a multimodal transportation vision for the city, Las Vegas has not yet adopted quantitative goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled/GHG emissions from transportation. Relative to other city systems, Las Vegas'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. Las Vegas can promote sustainable transportation within the city by further encouraging location efficiency and the use of efficient modes of transportation.