

RANK

70 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Memphis

Memphis had its best achievements in transportation policies thanks to efforts to encourage compact communities, its complete streets policy, and its bike share system. The city can still improve across all categories, particularly local government operations and community-wide initiatives. To increase its score, Memphis can reduce energy waste in government buildings, support the creation of clean distributed energy systems, 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

20.5 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



BUILDINGS POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

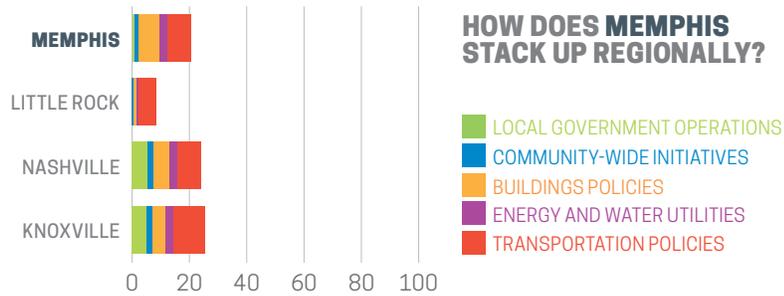


TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (1 OF 10 POINTS)

Memphis's draft Climate Action Plan includes greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and clean energy goals, but the city has not yet adopted the plan. Memphis benchmarks energy use of municipal buildings and conducts retrofits in certain buildings. Otherwise, the city has few initiatives to reduce GHG emissions or energy use from local government operations. The city can adopt climate mitigation, energy reduction, and renewable energy goals. Memphis can integrate clean energy into its procurement and construction strategies by setting fleet efficiency requirements, converting streetlights to LEDs, and installing renewable energy systems on municipal buildings.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (1.5 OF 15 POINTS)

To mitigate the urban heat island effect, Memphis aims to plant 5,000 street trees per year; however, the city has pursued few other community-wide initiatives. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city 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 (7 OF 30 POINTS)

Memphis requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code with local amendments, which is relatively stringent when compared to codes of other cities. Memphis, Light, Gas, and Water (MLGW), the city's municipal utility, offers incentives to spur clean energy investment. Memphis can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its buildings by adopting energy efficiency policies for existing buildings (such as benchmarking requirements) and developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (3 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, MLGW shows low savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs. The utility does not report savings from natural gas efficiency programs; however, it does offer energy efficiency programs for both low-income customers and multifamily properties. Memphis has partnered with MLGW and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to establish low-interest energy efficiency funds and implement assessments. In 2018, TVA produced 12% of its total generation from renewable sources.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (8 OF 30 POINTS)

Memphis adopted a complete streets policy through An Order Establishing a Complete Streets Policy for the City of Memphis. The Unified Development Ordinance encourages mixed-use development and removed minimum parking requirements in certain areas. 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, the city's transit system is underfunded and can improve in accessibility; ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world. Memphis can further promote sustainable transportation within the city by offering incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles and the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.