

RANK

76 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Mesa

OVERALL SCORE

17 / 100

Mesa made some achievements, but because the city has few clean energy policies, it has room for improvement across all categories, particularly in local government operations. To address energy waste in municipal operations, Mesa can benchmark and upgrade municipal buildings and seek to convert streetlights to LEDs. The city can also work to make private buildings more efficient, encourage the decarbonization of the power system, and create a sustainable transportation plan to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) citywide. These could serve as stepping-stones to a clean energy future.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



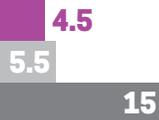
COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



BUILDINGS POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES



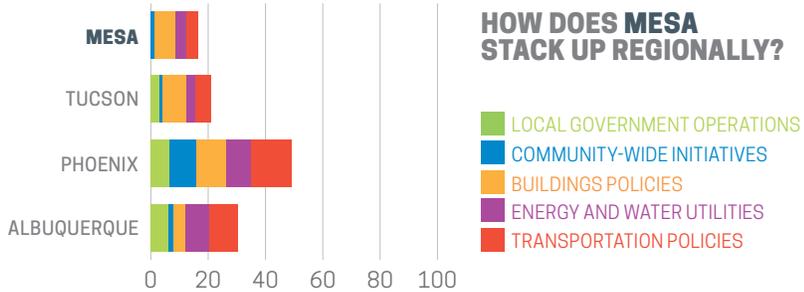
TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE

HOW DOES MESA STACK UP REGIONALLY?



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (0.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Mesa installs renewable energy systems on municipal buildings. Otherwise, it has few initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or energy use from local government operations. The city can adopt climate mitigation, energy reduction, and renewable energy goals. Mesa can work to integrate clean energy into its procurement and construction strategies by setting fleet efficiency requirements and converting streetlights to LEDs. The city can also benchmark municipal buildings, identify energy efficiency opportunities, and conduct retrofits.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (1.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Mesa works to reduce the urban heat island effect by allowing for the transfer of development rights in certain zones, but it 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 (6 OF 30 POINTS)

Mesa requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code with local amendments. The state of Arizona prohibits Mesa from adopting requirements that reduce energy use in existing buildings. Mesa can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its buildings sector including running a voluntary energy reduction program for existing buildings, offering incentives for clean energy, and developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (4.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Salt River Project (SRP) shows moderate savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs. The utility offers energy efficiency programs to both low-income customers and multifamily properties. In 2018, SRP produced 6.4% of its total generation from renewable sources. Southwest Gas reports low natural gas savings relative to other utilities. It administers a low-income weatherization program. Mesa can encourage more utility-scale or distributed renewable energy generation from its electric utility. It can also create a formal partnership with the utilities to develop an energy savings strategy and can work to increase the efficiency of water services by establishing water efficiency goals or programs.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (4.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Mesa's zoning code includes mixed-use zones. While the Mesa 2040 Transportation Plan includes sustainable transportation provisions, the city has not yet adopted quantitative 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. Mesa can improve the accessibility of and direct investment towards its transit system; ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world. Mesa 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.