

RANK

51 / 100

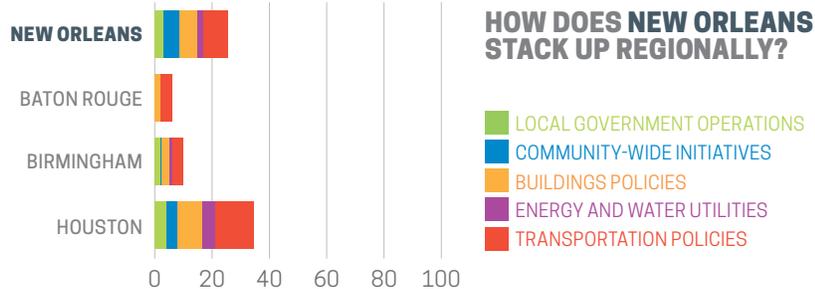
2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

# New Orleans

New Orleans had its best achievements in the community-wide initiatives category. Recent efforts improved the city's score in the policy area. In particular, the Climate Equity Project—an effort to take a comprehensive approach to equitable climate and energy planning—helped the city earn points in our assessment of equity in planning and program delivery. New Orleans has substantial room for improvement across all policy areas, but most notably in buildings policies and energy and water utilities.

OVERALL SCORE

25.5 / 100



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3 OF 10 POINTS)

New Orleans has an energy reduction goal for local government operations to reduce energy use 15% below 2014 levels by 2020. New Orleans benchmarks all public buildings, conducts energy audits of facilities, and implements upgrades for multiple buildings. The city has converted 75% of streetlights to LEDs. To ramp up its efforts, New Orleans can establish a climate change mitigation goal for local government operations and set fleet efficiency requirements.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (5.5 OF 15 POINTS)

New Orleans's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction, energy reduction, and renewable energy goals set the vision for a clean energy future. ACEEE was unable to project if the city will achieve its near-term, community-wide climate mitigation goal of 50% below 2014 levels by 2030 because insufficient GHG emissions data were available for our analysis. New Orleans adopted a formal rule supporting the development of community solar within the city. It has incorporated urban heat island mitigation policies into the city's zoning code.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (6.5 OF 30 POINTS)

New Orleans requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code and ASHRAE 90.1-2007, respectively. The codes are not stringent when compared to building energy codes in effect in other cities. Although New Orleans is technically allowed to adopt energy codes more stringent than those of the state, Louisiana has adopted restrictive regulations that effectively prohibit the city from doing so. To achieve energy reductions in existing buildings, New Orleans offers several clean energy incentives and runs the NOLA Energy Challenge. New Orleans can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its buildings sector by adopting energy efficiency policies (such as benchmarking requirements) for existing buildings.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (2 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Entergy New Orleans shows low savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs; it does not report savings from natural gas efficiency programs. The utility offers energy efficiency programs for both low-income customers and multifamily properties. The city has taken steps to support the decarbonization of the electric grid. It committed to a 100% renewable and clean portfolio standard by 2040, and while the rest of the state has removed full retail net metering for new customers, New Orleans is committed to maintaining it. The city can continue to increase energy and water efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (8.5 OF 30 POINTS)

New Orleans adopted a comprehensive complete streets policy through Ordinance No. 24706. The city's zoning code promotes location-efficient development in some areas of the city and reduces minimum parking requirements for multifamily units. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan provides the vision for a multimodal transportation system, though New Orleans has not adopted a stand-alone sustainable transportation plan or quantitative goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled/GHG emissions from transportation. Adopting and tracking progress toward these goals would help lay the groundwork for transportation action. Relative to other city systems, New Orleans's transit system is moderately funded and accessible; ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world. New Orleans can promote sustainable transportation by subsidizing efficient transportation options for low-income residents.



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

3

2.5

10



### COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

5.5

3

15



### BUILDINGS POLICIES

6.5

7

30



### ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

2

5.5

15



### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

8.5

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE