

RANK

43 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Rochester

Rochester had its best achievements in the energy and water utilities category. Recent efforts to encourage the decarbonization of the electric grid helped the city's score; namely, in 2019, the city council approved legislation authorizing community choice aggregation. The city still has room for improvement across all policy areas, with the most room for improvement in local government operations and community-wide initiatives.

OVERALL SCORE

27.5 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

2

2.5

10



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

0

3

15



BUILDINGS POLICIES

8.5

7

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

6

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

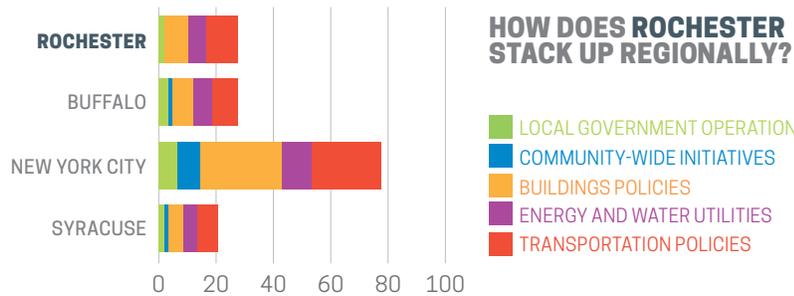
11

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (2 OF 10 POINTS)

Rochester has adopted greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and energy reduction 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 20% below 2008 levels by 2020 because insufficient GHG emissions data were available for our analysis. Rochester works to identify municipal facilities eligible for energy efficiency upgrades, and converts some streetlights to LEDs. To ramp up its efforts, the city can establish a renewable energy goal, install more renewable energy systems on municipal facilities, and benchmark energy use in municipal buildings.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (0 OF 15 POINTS)

Rochester has community-wide GHG emissions reduction goals. ACEEE was unable to project if the city will achieve its near-term, community-wide climate mitigation goal of 20% below 2010 levels by 2020 because insufficient GHG emissions data were available for our analysis. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city can adopt citywide 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 (8.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Rochester requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code, which references the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code. To achieve energy reductions in existing buildings, Rochester participates in the Better Buildings Challenge and offers incentives for clean energy. The Rochester Environmental Job Training Program helps grow the clean energy workforce. The city can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its buildings sector by adopting energy efficiency policies (such as benchmarking requirements) in existing buildings.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (6 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E) shows low savings as a percentage of sales for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. NYSERDA offers multiple low-income and multifamily energy efficiency programs for RG&E customers. Rochester is currently pursuing a Community Choice Aggregation after the city council authorized legislation. The city can advocate for better access to utility data and can also increase the energy and water efficiency of water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (11 OF 30 POINTS)

The city has developed an extensive electric vehicle charging network, which, due to the city's electricity mix, is mostly powered by renewable energy. Location-efficient codes apply to certain areas of the city, and parking minimums do not exist in two areas of the city. While Reimage RTS provides the vision for a transportation system that better suits the needs of the county, including downtown Rochester, the city has not yet adopted 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, Rochester'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. Rochester can promote sustainable transportation within the city by abolishing minimum parking requirements citywide.