

RANK

9 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

San José

San José broke into the top 10 for the first time. Its progress shows that decisive action allows new leaders to emerge. The recently adopted Building Reach Code and Climate Smart Challenge build on policies such as the Energy and Water Performance Ordinance to advance clean energy in the buildings sector. The city also had a top-five score in the energy and water utilities category due in part to efforts like San José Clean Energy. San José can continue its improvement by making more progress on buildings policies and local government operations.

OVERALL SCORE

65 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

4.5

2.5

10



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

9

3

15



BUILDINGS POLICIES

17.5

7

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

13

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

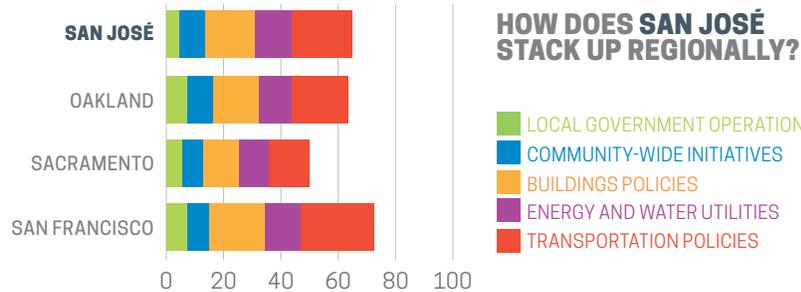
21

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (4.5 OF 10 POINTS)

San José set a goal to increase on-site solar capacity on municipal buildings to 11 megawatts by 2021. San José benchmarks 25% of its municipal building square footage and conducts energy retrofits. 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. The city also allows alternative work schedules for employees.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (9 OF 15 POINTS)

San José's climate change mitigation, energy reduction, and renewable energy goals set the vision for a clean energy future. The city adopted multiple climate goals, including a long-term climate mitigation goal of reducing emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Based on past years of emissions data, ACEEE projects the city will achieve its near-term, community-wide climate mitigation goal of 4% below 1990 levels by 2021. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, San José aims to plant 100,000 trees by 2022 and requires new developments 5,000 square feet and greater to incorporate low-impact development techniques.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (17.5 OF 30 POINTS)

San José adopted a reach code ordinance for residential and commercial buildings. Residential and commercial buildings must adhere to solar-, electric vehicle-readiness, and all electric-readiness requirements. To achieve energy reductions in existing buildings, the city requires commercial and multifamily buildings to benchmark energy use and either perform an energy audit or building tune-up every five years in accordance with the Energy and Water Building Performance Ordinance. San José also runs the voluntary Climate Smart Challenge to further spur energy saving action. Work2Future, the city's workforce development branch, helps grow an equitable clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (13 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) shows moderate savings as a percentage of sales for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. The utility offers energy efficiency programs for multifamily properties and low-income customers. San José partners with PG&E to promote and deliver energy efficiency services through the Silicon Valley Energy Watch. San José Clean Energy is San José's community choice aggregation electricity supplier, providing residents and businesses with carbon-free electricity. Multiple efforts also aim to increase water and energy efficiency of water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (21 OF 30 POINTS)

The Circulation Element of the Envision San José 2040 General Plan sets a sustainable and multimodal transportation vision for the city. The plan includes a goal to reduce vehicle miles traveled per service population per day 40% below 2009 levels by 2040. Based on the years for which data is available, the city has made measurable progress towards its goal. The plan also establishes mode shift targets to increase the number of trips by sustainable modes. Relative to other city systems, San José's transit system is well funded, but the city can make efforts to improve transit accessibility. Likewise, the city can take steps to improve the percentage of low-income households with access to high-quality transit. San José incentivizes affordable housing development in transit-served areas through its Transportation Analysis Policy.