

RANK

43 / 100

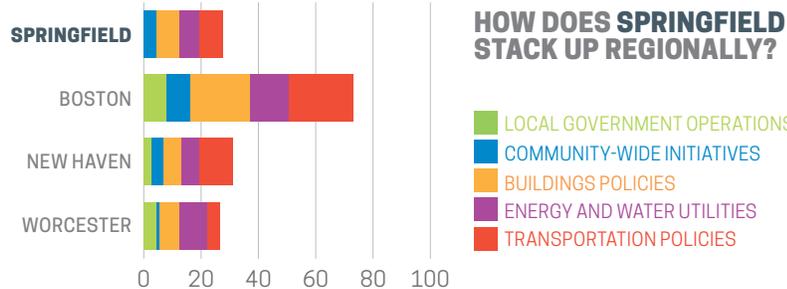
2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Springfield

Springfield performed best in the energy and water utilities category, largely due to efficiency programs and low-income and multifamily offerings by Eversource and Columbia Gas of Massachusetts. Springfield's next best achievements were in community-wide initiatives, where the city's recent support for a community solar project helped the its score in the category. Springfield can improve across all policy areas to advance its rank in the next edition of the *Scorecard*, most notably in local government operations.

OVERALL SCORE

27.5 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (0 OF 10 POINTS)

Springfield has few initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy use in local government operations. The city can ramp up its efforts by establishing municipal energy reduction, renewable electricity, and GHG emissions reduction goals. Springfield can reduce emissions from its existing buildings by benchmarking building energy use, developing a comprehensive retrofit strategy, and conducting energy retrofits. Beyond buildings, it can also increase clean energy by setting fleet efficiency requirements and installing more renewable energy systems.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (4.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Springfield's 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 80% below 2015 levels by 2050 because insufficient GHG emissions data were available for our analysis. To advance equity-driven planning and accountability, the city conducted expanded outreach in at-risk communities to inform the development of the Climate Action and Resilience Plan. Springfield supported the development of community solar within the city. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city aims to plant 11,000 trees by 2022.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (8 OF 30 POINTS)

Springfield adopted the Massachusetts State Building Code for residential and commercial buildings. The state requires new commercial and multifamily buildings to adhere to solar-ready requirements. Springfield can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its buildings sectors by adopting energy efficiency policies (such as benchmarking requirements) for existing buildings and developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (7 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Eversource shows high savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs and Columbia Gas of Massachusetts shows moderates savings for natural gas efficiency programs. Both utilities offer low-income energy efficiency programs through the Low-Income Energy Affordability Network, and both provide energy efficiency programs for multifamily properties. The city can work to encourage more utility-scale or distributed renewable energy generation. Springfield can also increase the energy and water efficiency of water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (8 OF 30 POINTS)

Springfield's Complete Streets Policy is among the most comprehensive policies assessed in the *City Scorecard*. Springfield's zoning code established overlay districts that encourage compact, mixed-use development. While the Climate Action & Resilience Plan includes sustainable transportation provisions, Springfield 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, Springfield's transit system is moderately funded and can improve in accessibility; ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world. Springfield can further promote sustainable transportation within the city by offering incentives for the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



BUILDINGS POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE