RANK

28 /100

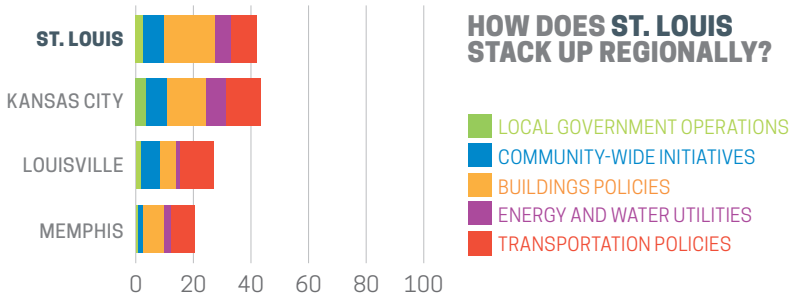
OVERALL SCORE

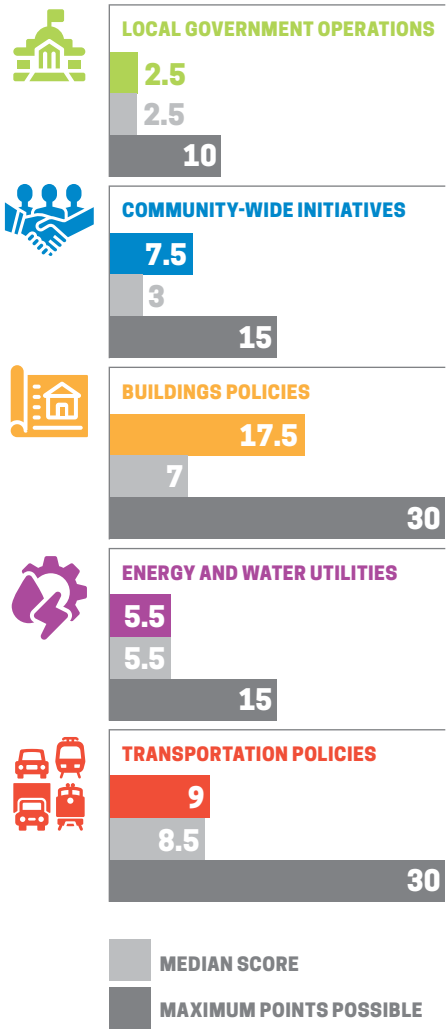
42 /100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

St. Louis

St. Louis was one of the two most-improved cities in the *2020 City Scorecard*. The city's April 2020 adoption of its Building Energy Performance Standard bill was the primary driver of its improved score. By adopting it, St. Louis became the third city in the country—and the first in the Midwest—to enact a performance standard bill for buildings. St. Louis also adopted a solar readiness requirement for residential, multifamily, and commercial construction. Additionally, to demonstrate support for the program, the city signed a memorandum of understanding with its electric utility, Ameren Missouri, to participate in a planned green tariff program. To maintain its spot in the rankings, St. Louis will need to continue to take bold policy action.





LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (2.5 OF 10 POINTS)

The city integrates clean energy into its procurement and construction by converting streetlights to LEDs and following inclusive contracting processes for city projects. It also benchmarks the energy use in some municipal buildings. The city has greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and renewable energy goals for local government operations. Based on past years of emissions data, ACEEE projects the city will not achieve its near-term local government operations climate mitigation goal to reduce GHG emissions 25% below 2005 levels by 2020. The city can adopt fleet efficiency requirements and install renewable energy systems on municipal buildings. In addition to continuing to benchmark energy use, the city can develop a comprehensive retrofit strategy.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (7.5 OF 15 POINTS)

St. Louis's GHG emissions reduction and renewable energy goals set the vision for a clean energy future. The city adopted a long-term GHG emissions reduction goal of 80% below 2005 levels by 2050. Based on past years of emissions data, ACEEE projects the city will achieve its near-term, community-wide GHG emissions reduction goal of 25% below 2005 levels by 2020. St. Louis supported the creation of district energy and community solar within the city. The city has not adopted a quantitative goal to mitigate the urban heat island effect.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (17.5 OF 30 POINTS)

St. Louis requires commercial and residential buildings to comply with the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code. The codes are highly stringent when compared to those in effect in other cities. Commercial and multifamily buildings must adhere to solar-readiness requirements. St. Louis has taken ambitious action to reduce energy use in existing buildings, recently enacting a requirement that large existing buildings meet a to-be-determined performance standard by 2025. It also requires benchmarking in commercial and multifamily buildings in accordance with the Building Energy Awareness Ordinance.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (5.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Ameren Missouri shows moderate savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs. Spire Missouri reports low savings for natural gas efficiency programs. The two utilities jointly offer a low-income multifamily program. St. Louis partners with both utilities to use PACE financing to implement energy upgrades in residential, industrial, and multifamily buildings. The city can also increase the energy and water efficiency of water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (9 OF 30 POINTS)

The city encourages mode shift through its complete streets policy and bikeshare programs. It also encourages location efficiency through a form-based overlay district. St. Louis's Sustainability Plan includes provisions to improve the energy efficiency of the city's transportation sector. Relative to other city systems, St. Louis's transit system is underfunded and moderately accessible. The city can promote sustainable transportation by abolishing minimum parking requirements citywide, offering a greater number of incentives for compact and mixed-use development, and for the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

ACEEE

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy