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Clean Energy Scorecard for Mountain West Cities, 2020

Eshaan Vakil

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, eshaan.vakil@unlv.edu

Olivia K. Cheche

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, olivia.cheche@unlv.edu

Caitlin J. Saladino

Brookings Mountain West & The Lincy Institute, caitlin.saladino@unlv.edu

William E. Brown Jr.

Brookings Mountain West, william.brown@unlv.edu

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CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD FOR MOUNTAIN WEST CITIES, 2020

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Prepared by: Eshaan Vakil, Olivia K. Cheche, Caitlin J. Saladino, and William E. Brown, Jr.

PURPOSE:

As climate change continues to affect the Mountain West, many cities are taking measures to reduce carbon emissions and dependence on fossil fuels. This fact sheet reports the rankings of Mountain West municipal governments, based on efforts to improve energy efficiency and increase their utilization of clean energy. The rankings are collected from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy’s (ACEEE) “2020 City Clean Energy Scorecard.”¹

ABOUT THE DATA:

The ACEEE report ranks the 100 largest American cities on five key metrics (Local Government Operations; Community-wide Initiatives; Building Policies; Energy and Water Utilities; and Transportation Policies) using a point-based system. As displayed below, each of these five key metrics are composed of specific goals, policies, and strategies related to clean energy that cities might adopt. These specificities also serve as guidelines for scoring cities on each of the five metrics. The original report then offers a total score, as a summation of the metrics. A final city ranking is determined based on total scores in each metric.²

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS	COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES	BUILDING POLICIES	ENERGY & WATER UTILITIES	TRANSPORTATION POLICIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate mitigation & energy goals • Procurement & construction policies • Asset management strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate & energy goals • Energy data reporting • Equity-driven planning • Distributed energy systems • Urban heat island mitigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building energy code adoption • Code compliance & enforcement • Existing buildings • Workforce development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficiency efforts of energy utilities • Renewable efforts of energy utilities • Efficiency efforts of water utilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable transportation • Location efficiency • Mode shift • Public transit • Efficient vehicles • Freight • Equitable transportation • Congestion planning

12 Mountain West cities are among America’s 100 largest cities and are included in the report: Denver, CO; Phoenix, AZ; Salt Lake City, UT; Las Vegas, NV; Albuquerque, NM; Aurora, CO; Reno, NV; Tucson, AZ; Colorado Springs, CO; Mesa, AZ; Henderson, NV; and Provo, UT.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. Denver, CO performs well both locally and nationally, leading the Mountain West in clean energy rankings; Denver is tied for 2nd nationally in community-wide initiatives with Los Angeles, CA and Minneapolis, MN.
2. Phoenix, AZ (19th), Salt Lake City, UT (27th), Las Vegas, NV (36th), Albuquerque, NM (40th), and Aurora, CO (43rd) fall in an upper-middle cluster in clean energy scorecard rankings. However, more populous cities tend to rank higher than less populous cities.

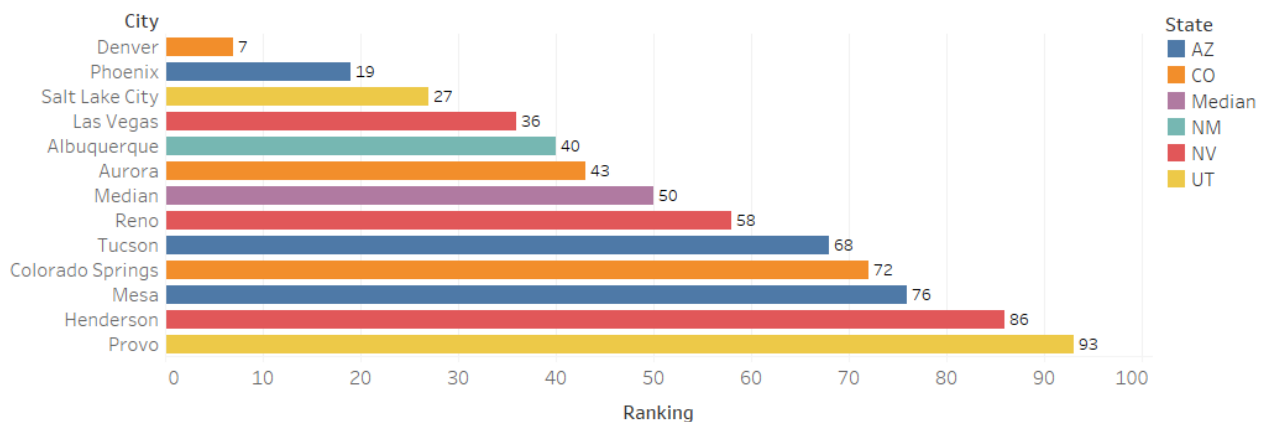
¹American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, “The 2020 City Clean Energy Scorecard” October 2020. www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/u2008.pdf.

² Rankings for each sub-score can be found in the original report.

3. Reno, NV; Tucson, AZ; Colorado Springs, CO; Mesa, AZ; Henderson, NV; and Provo, UT rank below the median total of clean energy scores (26 points out of 100).
4. Among clean energy scorecard rankings, Henderson, NV (86th) and Provo, UT (93rd) are among the lowest-ranked cities in the nation. Henderson scores zero points on both local government operations and community-wide initiatives, and Provo scores zero points on local government operations.

Figure 1 displays the overall national rankings of the 12 Mountain West cities. They are distributed throughout the rankings, with Denver, CO achieving the highest rank (7th), and Provo, UT (93rd) ranking the lowest. Clusters are identifiable: the Denver to Aurora cluster is above the median (purple bar), and the Reno to Provo cluster lies below the median.

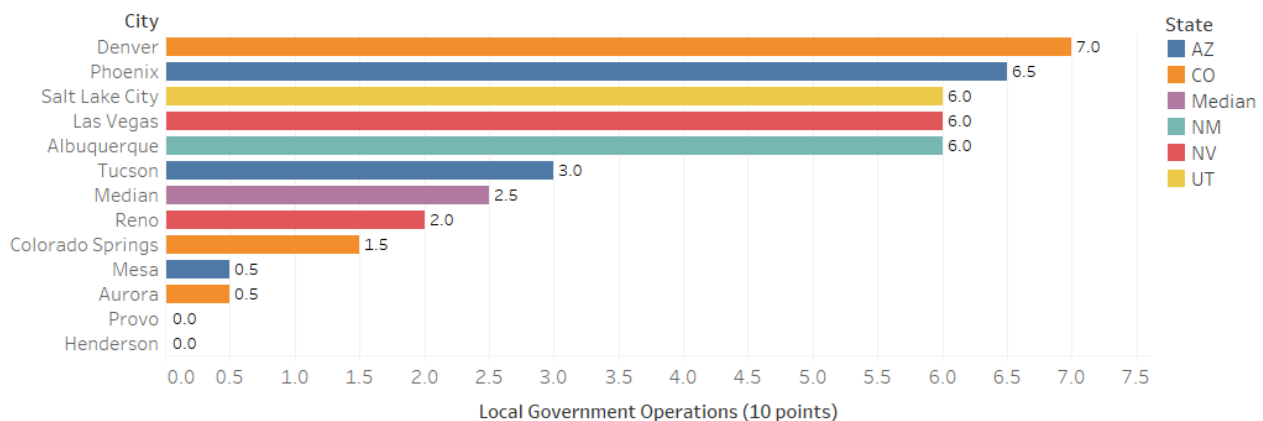
Figure 1: Total “Clean Energy Score” Rankings, Mountain West Cities



*Adapted from American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, “The 2020 City Clean Energy Scorecard”.

Figure 2 displays the “local government operations” score of each Mountain West city, along with the national median. Mountain West cities are evenly distributed, with 6 cities above and 6 cities below the median. Both Provo, UT and Henderson, NV receive 0 points in this category.

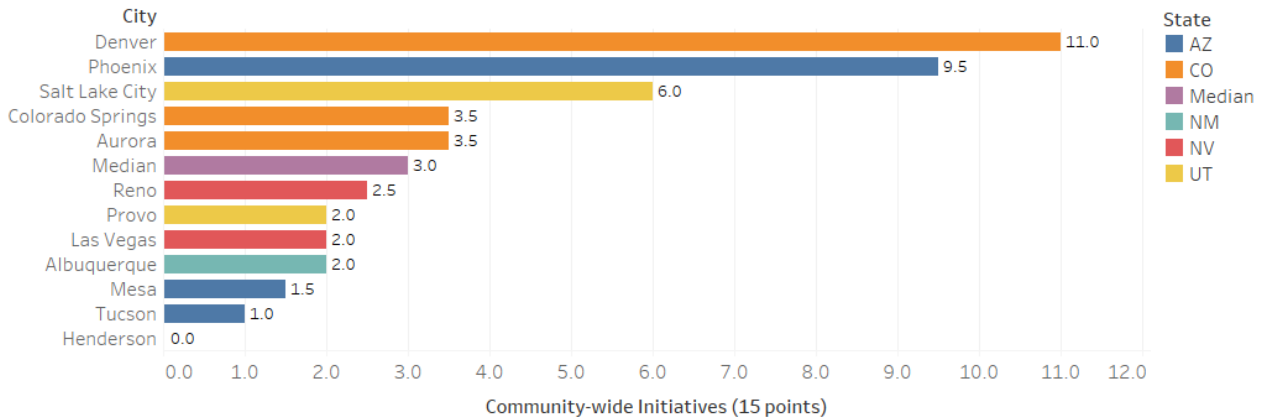
Figure 2: “Local Government Operations” Rankings, Mountain West Cities



*Adapted from American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, “The 2020 City Clean Energy Scorecard”.

Figure 3 displays the “community-wide initiatives” score of the Mountain West cities, along with the national median. The Mountain West has 5 cities above and 7 cities below the median. Henderson, NV is the only city to receive 0 points in this category.

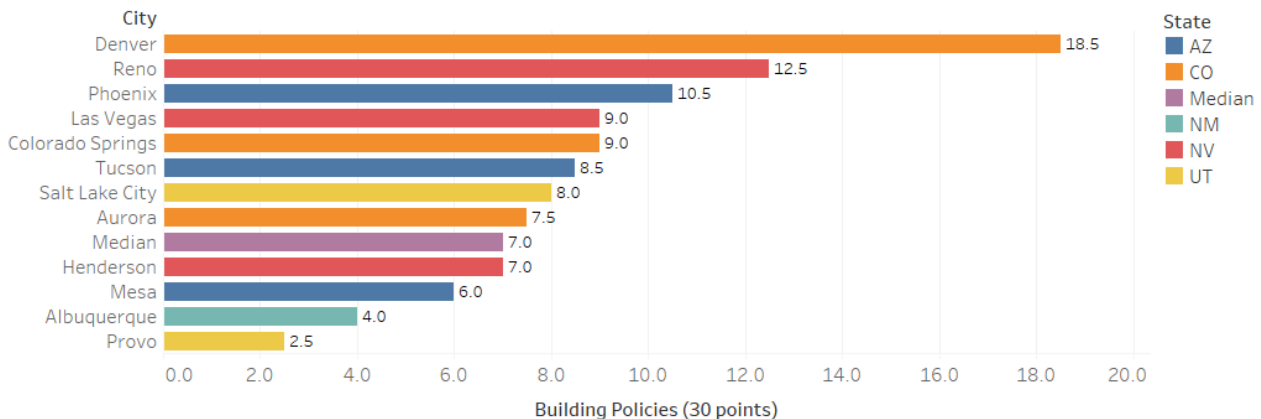
Figure 3: “Community-Wide Initiatives” Rankings, Mountain West Cities



*Adapted from American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, “The 2020 City Clean Energy Scorecard”.

Figure 4 displays the rankings of Mountain West cities in the “building policies” category, along with the national median. Mountain West cities perform better in this category, with 8 cities above the median score and 4 cities below that level.

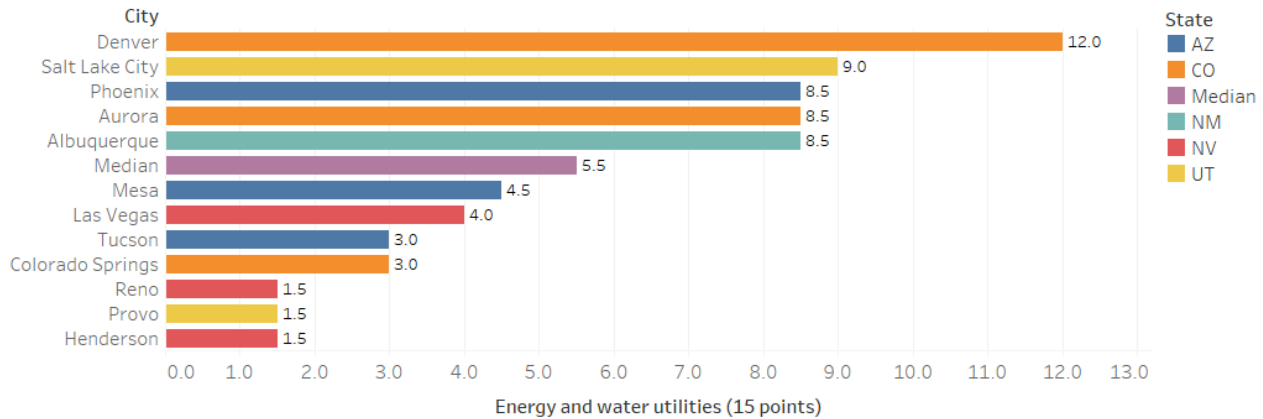
Figure 4: “Building Policies” Rankings, Mountain West Cities



*Adapted from American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, “The 2020 City Clean Energy Scorecard”.

Figure 5 displays the scores of the Mountain West cities in the “energy and water utilities” category, along with the national median. The Mountain West has 5 cities above and 7 cities below the median. All Nevada cities rank below the national median in energy and water utilities.

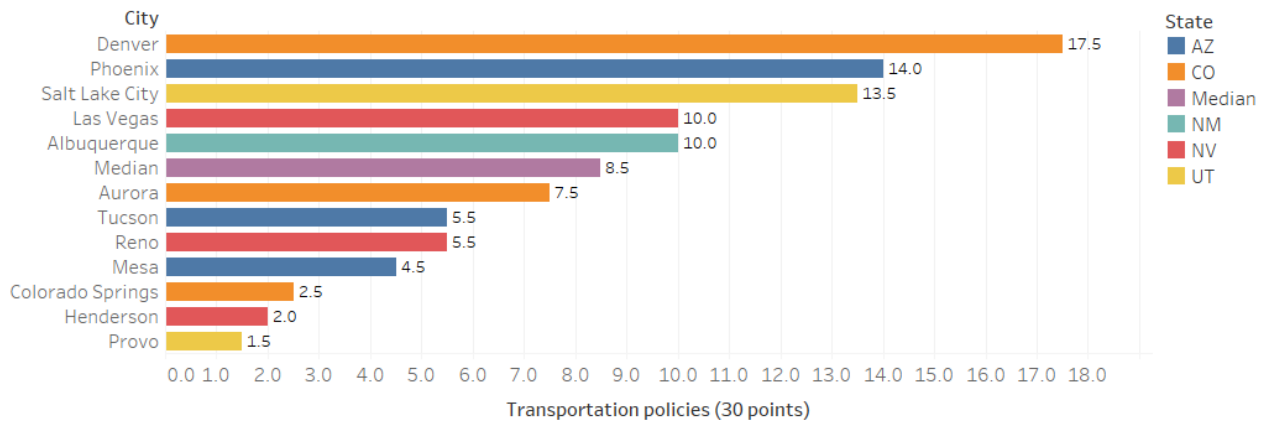
Figure 5: “Energy and Water Utilities” Rankings, Mountain West Cities



*Adapted from American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, “The 2020 City Clean Energy Scorecard”.

Figure 6 displays the rankings of Mountain West cities in the “transportation policies” category, along with the national median. Denver (17.5 points) earns the highest score for transportation policies in the Mountain West, out of an available 30 points in this category; most Mountain West cities perform below the median.

Figure 6: “Transportation Policies” Rankings, Mountain West Cities



*Adapted from American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, “The 2020 City Clean Energy Scorecard”.