

# *What Are Cities Doing to Try to Become More Sustainable?*

## *Rankings of Cities with Sustainability Programs\**

<b>1</b>	<b>Seattle</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Denver</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Albuquerque</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Minneapolis</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Oakland</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Boulder</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>San Jose</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Chicago</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Portland, OR</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Santa Monica</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Scottsdale</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>San Diego</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Columbus</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>New York</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Sacramento</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Tampa</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Anchorage</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Vancouver</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Austin</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Chattanooga</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Tucson</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Washington</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Grand Rapids</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Buffalo</b>	<b>17</b>

<b>30</b>	<b>Phoenix</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Boston</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Jacksonville</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Pittsburgh</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>34</b>	<b>Brookline, MA</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>34</b>	<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>34</b>	<b>Atlanta</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>37</b>	<b>St. Louis</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>Orlando</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>39</b>	<b>Indianapolis</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>39</b>	<b>Santa Barbara</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>41</b>	<b>Milwaukee</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>41</b>	<b>New Haven</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>43</b>	<b>Olympia, WA</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>44</b>	<b>Lansing/E. Lansing</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>44</b>	<b>Cincinnati</b>	<b>7</b>

Updated as of September 15, 2007. The “Index” is based on assessment of the 35 specific city government policies, programs, and activities listed below. *Each city gets 1 point for having each program or policy.*

## *The City Policies, Programs, and Activities of the Index of Taking Sustainable Cities Seriously:*

<b>Smart Growth Activities</b>
<b>1. Eco-industrial park development</b>
<b>2. Targeted or cluster economic development</b>
<b>3. Eco-village (urban infill housing) project or program</b>
<b>4. Brownfield redevelopment (project or pilot project)</b>
<b>Land Use Planning Programs, Policies, and Zoning</b>
<b>5. Zoning used to delineate environmentally sensitive growth areas</b>
<b>6. Comprehensive land use plan that includes environmental issues</b>
<b>7. Tax incentives for environmentally friendly development (only where zoning is not permitted)</b>

**Transportation Planning Programs and Policies**

- 8. Operation or sponsorship of public transit (buses and/or trains)
- 9. Limits on downtown parking spaces
- 10. Car pool lanes (HOV or diamond lanes)
- 11. Alternatively fueled city vehicle (green fleet) program
- 12. Bicycle ridership program

**Pollution Prevention, Reduction, and Remediation**

- 13. Household solid waste recycling
- 14. Industrial recycling
- 15. Hazardous waste recycling
- 16. Air pollution reduction program (i.e. VOC reduction)
- 17. Recycled product purchasing by city government
- 18. Superfund (non-brownfield) site remediation
- 19. Asbestos abatement program
- 20. Lead paint abatement program
- 21. Pesticide reduction program

**Energy and Resource Conservation/Efficiency**

- 22. Green building program
- 23. Renewable energy use by city government
- 24. Energy conservation effort (other than Green building program)
- 25. Alternative energy offered to consumers (solar, wind, biogas, etc.)
- 26. Water conservation program

**Sustainable Indicators Project**

- 27. Indicators project active in last five years
- 28. Indicators progress report in last five years
- 29. Does indicators project include “action plan” of policies/programs?

**Organization/Administration/Management/Coordination/Governance**

- 30. Single government or nonprofit agency responsible for implementing sustainability programs
- 31. Sustainability an explicit part of a citywide comprehensive or general plan
- 32. Involvement of city/county/metropolitan council
- 33. Involvement of mayor or chief executive officer
- 34. Involvement of the business community (e.g. Chamber of Commerce, Sustainable Business organization)
- 35. General public involvement (public hearings, visioning process, Neighborhood groups or associations, etc.)