

City of Fayetteville, Arkansas



PROJECT DETAILS

Certified on: May 16th, 2023

Certification level: Gold

City of Fayetteville, Arkansas named LEED Gold and recognized for its sustainability and resilience achievements.

“Being a designated LEED for Cities Gold community is an important recognition of our commitment to reducing harmful carbon pollution while also strengthening and improving neighborhoods across the city. Our efforts are leading to real and positive impacts across the city. By prioritizing policies and programs that create an equitable, sustainable and resilient community, Fayetteville will lead the way to a more sustainable future for all.” - Mayor Lioneld Jordan

SNAPSHOT

Country	USA
Project Area	35710 acres 143 sq.km
Population	96904 (2022)
Demographics	76.8% White; 7.7% Two or More Races; 7.5% Hispanic or Latino; 5.9% Black or African American; 3.7% Other
Leadership	Mayor Lioneld Jordan
Key Stakeholders and Partners:	Departments of Sustainability, Facilities Management, Planning, GIS, Community Resources, Water and Sewer, Transportation, Parks and Recreation, Public Works

SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES

- Lead conversation about climate change and determine how to effectively address current and future effects in Northwest Arkansas, connecting on shared values of conservation and innovation
- Commitment to a Low Carbon Economy is demonstrated through an annually consistent decrease in Greenhouse Gas Intensity from 2018-2020
- Maintain clean air, water, and soil, building a City where every citizen (present and future) can experience a naturally beautiful, healthy, and sustainable Fayetteville
- Prioritize community-centered approaches to urban greening, engagement, and local economic development.

Certification Overview

The City of Fayetteville achieved LEED Cities Gold certification by earning 68 points out of the possible 110 points available across nine credit categories as illustrated. Some of the most significant strategies that contributed to the certification include the City's focused approach to sectors like NS reflecting commitment to parks and open spaces and EN reflecting commitment to decreasing their carbon footprint. In addition, the City is making notable strides with innovative community centered engagement, urban greening, and economic development efforts.



Performance Score | Key Metrics

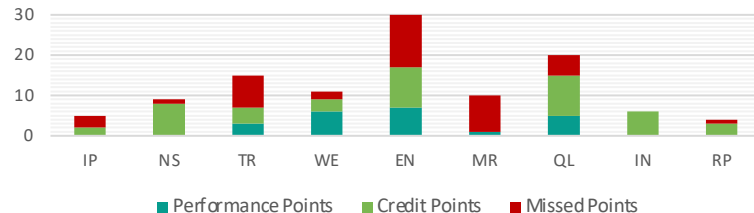
63/100 | Transportation Performance

95/100 | Water Performance

67/100 | Energy and Emissions Performance

49/100 | Waste Performance

82/100 | Quality of Life Performance



Category	Points Achieved/ Points Available
INTEGRATIVE PROCESS (IP)	2/5
NATURAL SYSTEMS AND ECOLOGY (NS)	8/9
TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE (TR)	7/15
WATER EFFICIENCY (WE)	9/11
ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (EN)	17/30
MATERIALS AND RESOURCES (MR)	1/10
QUALITY OF LIFE (QL)	15/20
INNOVATION (IN)	6/6
REGIONAL PRIORITY (RP)	3/4
TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED	68/110

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INTEGRATIVE PROCESS

2/5

INTEGRATIVE PLANNING PROCESS

City of Fayetteville Sustainability staff assembled an interdepartmental LEED for Cities and Communities project team consisting of director level staff members from the following departments: Sustainability, Facilities Management, Planning, Engineering, Information Technology, GIS, Community Resources, Water and Sewer, Transportation, Recycling and Trash, and Parks and Recreation.



The core Sustainability Team worked through the summer of 2020 gathering data and building narratives for the various LEED for Cities & Communities Credits. The team has had good success working across departments during this disruptive time to build the strongest application possible.

ENERGY PERFORMANCE TRACKING

The City of Fayetteville tracks annual energy usage data for City government operations and community-wide energy usage. Monthly energy reporting and annual GHG inventories help the City identify areas for emissions reduction. Projects resulting from energy performance tracking include 10MW of solar with 25mWh of battery storage and an Energy Savings Performance Contract resulting in a 30% reduction in energy consumption at City facilities.

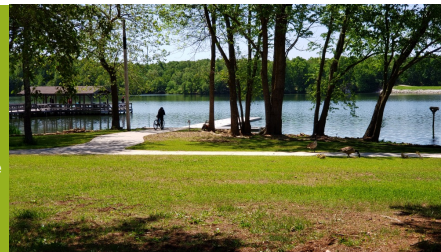


NATURAL SYSTEMS AND ECOLOGY

8/9

ACCESSIBLE GREEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCE ACREAGE

The City of Fayetteville has 3,089 acres of total green space, which translates to around 366 square feet (0.033 acres) (2020) of accessible green space per resident. More than 89% of the residences are within half a mile distance of these green spaces.



Along with providing accessible green spaces, the City of Fayetteville demonstrated a natural resource area of 899 square feet per person as a result of its conservation efforts.

RESILIENCE PLANNING: VULNERABILITY AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

The Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan and the City of Fayetteville Emergency Options Plan both include extensive risk assessment for severe storms, high winds, tornado, floods, winter storms, extreme temperatures, wildfires, droughts, and earthquakes. The Emergency Operations Plan also includes the probability, vulnerability assessment, and adaptation actions that can be taken for man-made climate change hazards.

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TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE

7/15

TRANSPORTATION PERFORMANCE

The City of Fayetteville achieved a transportation performance score of 63/100 based on the measured value of 24.52 (2021) vehicles miles travelled per person per day.

INTERMODAL CONNECTIVITY

The City of Fayetteville partners with the University of Arkansas and Ozark Regional Transit to provide public transit throughout the city. Union Station is the hub for 9 of these routes. The station is connected to a parking garage, there is designated bike parking, and it is attached to the Union building which allows for students to walk and have a place to wait and get meals without being exposed to any weather elements.

ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES

The City of Fayetteville has adopted standards for businesses installing electric vehicle charging stations as part of a larger plan to curb harmful emissions to the environment. The City regulations require publicly available car chargers to have a minimum 30 amps on a 240-volt circuit and be a Level 2 station or higher. The regulations apply to commercial, mixed-use, industrial and institutional zoning districts. The City adopted its Energy Action Plan in January 2018, which outlines several ways to reduce emissions harmful to the environment. The goal of the plan is to have all city buildings and vehicles run entirely on renewable energy by 2030 and to have the entire city's power run on renewable energy by 2050.



WATER EFFICIENCY

9/11

WATER PERFORMANCE

The City of Fayetteville achieved a water performance score of 95/100 based on the daily per capita domestic water consumption value of 54.99 gallons (2020).

WATER ACCESS AND QUALITY

In Fayetteville, 100% of consumers have access to public water supply and 100% of buildings are connected to wastewater system. The city of Fayetteville purchases drinking water from the Beaver Water District, whose source is Beaver Lake. The Arkansas Department of Health completes a Source Water Vulnerability Assessment for Beaver Water District. This assessment includes the potential for contamination of our source of drinking water. Out of all the contaminants measures, none were in violation. Each category also fell within the public health goal when applicable.

SMART WATER SYSTEMS

The City of Fayetteville contracted out an in-depth water audit in 2019. This specific audit was conducted using the American Water Works Association (AWWA) M36 Methodology and software. Purchased water enters through two transmission lines, and the city is billed through a single meter. This meter is electronically calibrated biannually. The City also recently began looking into Advanced Metering infrastructure and has already installed more than 12 Badger Beacon cloud-based meters starting in 2014.



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ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS 17/30

ENERGY PERFORMANCE

The City of Fayetteville achieved an energy performance score of 67/100 based on the total annual per capita scope 1 and scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors measured as 14.34 MMTCO₂ (2019).

The City of Fayetteville is committed to a Low Carbon Economy and is demonstrating an annually consistent decrease in Greenhouse Gas Intensity from 2018-2020.

POWER SURETY AND RESILIENCY

The City of Fayetteville is served by either Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) or Ozarks Electric Cooperative to provide power. Fayetteville works with both organizations to improve the electric grid and make strides in all aspects of sustainability. The City also takes steps internally to ensure emergency facilities and services can provide consistent power in a crisis.



MATERIALS AND RESOURCES 1/10

WASTE PERFORMANCE

The City of Fayetteville achieved a waste performance score of 49/100 based on a municipal solid waste (MSW) generation rate of 0.80 tons per person per year and a landfill diversion rate of 19% (2019).

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The City of Fayetteville operates a curbside-sort (curb-sort) recycling program for its approximately 19,000 residential and commercial accounts. In addition, the City offers a food waste composting program and zero waste event planning. The collection and processing functions of the recycling program are both operated by the City which, has a 40% recycling diversion goal by 2027.



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QUALITY OF LIFE

15/20

QUALITY OF LIFE PERFORMANCE

The City of Fayetteville achieved the quality of life performance score of 82/100 by tracking and measuring the key indicators of education, equitability, prosperity, health, and safety related to elevating the living standards of all people in the city (2020):

- Population with high school degree: 94.5%
- Population with bachelor's degree: 50.3%
- Median household income: \$47,035
- Median gross rent as % of household income: 30.1%
- Unemployment Rate: 2.9%
- Gini coefficient: 0.52
- Violent crime rate per capita per year: 0.01 (2018)
- Median air quality index: 39
- Air quality days unhealthy for sensitive groups: 1



CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2016, the City of Fayetteville carried out a Community Survey to assess Fayetteville residents' perceptions of public parkland, public safety, community cohesion, and civic engagement. One of the lessons learned from the 2016 Community Survey was the need to acquire and implement an online civic engagement platform that could be used to guide the discussion for large or controversial policies, projects, or programs while they are being developed and/or implemented. This created the launch of Speak Up Fayetteville, an online engagement platform, that allows staff to scale public engagement efforts to meet the need for each project and track them over time.



INNOVATION

6/6

INNOVATIVE PERFORMANCE

The City of Fayetteville demonstrated innovative performance by achieving the following:

1. Tactical Urbanism: The City has welcomed residents to propose Tactical Urbanism projects to implement ideas, methods, and tools that help the community build safer, happier and more connected neighbourhoods. Projects included several crosswalks, bike lanes and a lot of pedestrian cross-walks and beacon light installations.

2. Naturalistic Landscaping: The City of Fayetteville had the desire to allow diverse lawn types for its residents. An ordinance was passed allowing the mayor to take the sustainable benefits into consideration when evaluating if the yard meets city standards. This has led to many diverse ideas beneficial to the ecosystem.

3. Removal of Minimum Parking Requirement: In 2015 Fayetteville City Council members approved a proposal to eliminate minimum parking requirements for non-residential properties. At the time the city had an astounding 3 parking spaces for every car in Fayetteville.

4. No Cost Transit: The cost of ridership is felt acutely by low-income individuals, so The City of Fayetteville was prescient to acknowledge this cost barrier and pledge to offset it by providing fare-free transit in City limits.

5. Urban Farming: The City implemented urban farming policies to allow citizens to take measures to cut down on energy costs related to food production and increase the number of times residents can grow and sell food.



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REGIONAL PRIORITY

3/4

The City of Fayetteville demonstrated achievement of the following strategies that address geographically specific socio-economic and environmental priorities:

Integrated Water System:

The City of Fayetteville shares Beaver Lake with the Northwest Arkansas Metropolitan Statistical Area as the main water source. The City works closely with Beaver Water District to ensure source water protection for the region. A collaborative approach across jurisdictions aids the protection, restoration, and financial support of the lake to continue serving residents high quality water.

Green Space Conservation:

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission works with the City of Fayetteville and others in the region to increase cooperation between cities in the efforts to conserve green spaces. The regional planning commission also produced a master plan that will aid each city in their own conservation planning efforts.

Climate Change Refugees:

The City of Fayetteville is fortunate to have several factors making it more resilient to climate change compared to other areas in the southeast region of the US. This makes it a prime location for climate refugees. To prepare for this the City has added this element to their resiliency planning.

