Leading Cities

Making Smart Cities Smarter

Bright Cities

Leading Cities Rating
powered by Bright Cities

2019 U.S. Edition
Preview

Leading Cities and Bright Cities team up to create a new rating tool for encouraging smarter Cities

*The "Leading Cities Rating powered by Bright Cities"
launched its U.S. results at the Smart City Expo Atlanta*

A Smart City is a designation given to a city that achieves everything from economic and environmental sustainability to incorporating information and communication technologies (ICT) to improve the quality and performance of urban services, such as energy, transportation and utilities, in order to reduce resource consumption, wastage and overall costs. These challenges are fundamental to defining the quality of life residents, workers and visitors will have in tomorrow's cities . Smart Cities solutions enhance public management and help solve many of these urban challenges in a more efficient way. It was our goal to create a rating system that does not include the inherent flaws of a traditional ranking—that no matter how good or bad, the "number one" slot is always filled or that unecessary competition between cities develops when in order for one city to move up in a ranking another city must move down. The Leading Cities Rating powered by Bright Cities is a fundamental shift in how cities are measured and provides ample incentive for cities to achieve the advancements that their constituents deserve.

The Leading Cities Rating powered by Bright Cities analyzes a city's performance based on 45 indicators in ten categories: Governance, Economy, Education, Entrepreneurship, Environment, Health, Mobility, Security, Technology and Energy. Unlike a ranking, cities measured using the *Leading Cities Rating powered by Bright Cities* are not compared directly to one another, but rather measured against the best score achieved in each indicator. When analyzed together, these criterion provide a valuable diagnosis of a city's performance, pointing out which of these sectors deliver satisfactory results and which still need improvement.

Twenty-four cities from the United States were initially chosen to be evaluated. The list was based on the 100 Resilient Cities program, a initiative of the Rockefeller Foundation. The inaugural cities are: Atlanta, Berkeley, Boston, Boulder, Chicago, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, Los Angeles, Louisville, Miami, Minneapolis, Nashville, New Orleans, New York, Norfolk, Oakland, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Seattle, St. Louis, Tulsa, Honolulu and Washington.

The Leading Cities Rating powered by Bright Cities highlights the tremendous amount of work left to be done in the U.S. to achieve Smart City status. Though no city measured achieved a top tier grade (A+, A or A-), it did identify those cities taking an early lead in their achievements. The four cities that scored the highest with a B+ rating were Seattle, WA; Boulder, CO; San Francisco, CA; and Berkeley, CA. The rating is meant to be a tool to encourage cities of all sizes and geographic locations to become smarter, making it possible for all of them to achieve the A+ grade they need to ensure sustainability, resiliency, equity, and a higher quality of life for all. While many smart city rankings identify only a single city as a winner, that is the opposite of what *The Leading Cities Rating powered by Bright Cities* aims to do. Instead of identifying just one city at the top, this new rating focuses on the development of all cities and fosters the needed collaboration between cities to make their Smart City future a reality.

Unlike a traditional ranking, the *Leading Cities Rating powered by Bright Cities* does not create a false sense of competition between cities, which results when one city must be forced to a lower ranking in order for another city to move up. *Our Rating System* uses a scale of A+ to F to score each indicator and each city overall.

A Grades

Municipalities that are rated A+ are considered a "Smart City" in the strictest definition of the term. Their Performance Indicators are among the highest levels of excellence, providing citizens with high standard services, fast and personalized to the most diverse demands of citizens. Solid infrastructure and integration with innovative technologies make these municipalities able to innovate and adapt to residents' needs as quickly and efficiently as possible, building collaborative management, avoiding wasteful public spending and enabling assertive planning to meet these needs. For cities achieving A or A- grades, though close, have not completely achieved such high scores across the board leaving room for improvement and fine tuning.

B Grades

B rated municipalities are significantly on their way to becoming a "Smart City," their performance indicators are strong, allowing citizens to enjoy moderately high standard services quickly and generally meet the needs of citizens. The governance structure(s) of these municipalities allows public managers to invest in cutting-edge technologies and innovative actions to meet residents' needs, but in order to reach levels of excellence in citizens' quality of life and income standards, these municipalities need to invest in actual implementation. Cities achieving a B grade (B+,B or B-) have existing planning processes that are inclusive and typically map the most diverse needs of citizens across the city, but still does not deliver a equitable access to resources and opportunities to all neighborhoods.

C Grades

Municipalities that are classified with a C grade have achieved mid-level standards related to the performance of their services compared to other cities. These cities also show significant areas of improvement in one or more category and have difficulty meeting the needs of their constituents. Characteristically, cities with a C grade still use traditional forms of planning that achieve satisfactory levels of results, but are subject to failure due to constant changes and usually generate a reactive approach to meeting citizen's demands. Additionally, the infrastructure of these municipalities is falling short of best practices and requires substantial investment to build a solid base for growth. Currently, C-rated cities usually do not support cutting-edge technologies that would inevitably increase their ability to deliver higher quality and quantity of services to constituents now and with projected growth.

D Grades

Municipalities that are classified with D grades have serious problems in the multiple categories examined by *The Leading Cities Rating powered by Bright Cities.* These cities are characterized by low performance levels, delivering little productivity and with significant delays in the processes that permeate their services. The infrastructure of municipalities with D grades are fragile and outdated, need constant investments and are generally unable to deploy most technologies that improve the quality and speed of services delivered to all constituents. Overall planning for the city must also be addressed as it can generally be classified as being unassertive and only responds to challenges reactively. Finally, a good structural foundation for traditional services still needs to be created so that it can continue to evolve sustainably through the years.

F Grade

Municipalities that are classified with the grade F have serious problems in all areas mapped by the indicator system, so their performance in service delivery is slow, of poor quality and does not respond to the biggest challenges faced by their constituents.The infrastructure of these municipalities does not allow the implementation of innovative technologies that assist in the delivery of higher quality services and constitutes a major obstacle in the evolution of solving the serious socio-economic problems faced by citizens. Finally, the lack of good tools and availability of data negatively influence public planning that often becomes inaccurate, creates unnecessary spending, and generates the need for reformulation in short time periods.

The Leading Cities Rating powered by Bright Cities
Inaugural Results 2019

City	State	Rating
Ideal City	Ideal City State	A+
Seattle	Washington	B+
Boulder	Colorado	B+
San Francisco	California	B+
Berkeley	California	B+
Urban Honolulu	Hawaii	B-
Boston	Massachusetts	B-
New York	New York	B-
Minneapolis	Minnesota	B-
Oakland	California	B-
Los Angeles	California	B-
Washington	District of Columbia	B-
Louisville	Kentucky	C+
Nashville	Tennessee	C+
Pittsburgh	Pennsylvania	C+
El Paso	Texas	C+
Chicago	Illinois	C+
Dallas	Texas	C+
Houston	Texas	C+
Tulsa	Oklahoma	C+
Norfolk	Virginia	C+
Atlanta	Georgia	C+
Miami	Florida	C+
New Orleans	Louisiana	C+
St. Louis	Missouri	C-

The *Leading Cities Rating powered by Bright Cities* fosters the natural instinct cities have to collaborate and share best practices while achieving their ultimate goal of sustainability, resiliency, and equity–becoming a Smart City.

Initial Rating Released
Leading Cities and Bright Cities focused on the 24 U.S. cities that participated in the 100 Resilient Cities program.

Methodology
The *Leading Cities Rating* is based on the input of experts from around the world and powered by Bright Cities' disruptive platform for Smart City transformation. We use data science to analyze and score publicly available data and compare a city's score with that of an "ideal city." This "ideal city" is determined using the best results already achieved by a city in each of the 45 indicators analyzed. The analysis on the best result was based on data from all U.S. cities with populations over 100,000. These indicators are divided into ten categories: Governance, Economy, Education, Entrepreneurship, Environment, Health, Mobility, Security, Technology and Energy.

Upgrading A City
Combining Leading Cities' pioneering tools and network of global smart city experts with Bright Cities' innovative diagnostic technology, *The Leading Cities Rating powered by Bright Cities* represents a dramatic shift in the way we measure a city's transformation to a "smart city." This insight paves the way for municipalities to better understand the improvements necessary to deliver a more resilient, more sustainable, more equitable city.

Tools for Change
Leading Cities members benefit from access to a library of tools and expertise to facilitate and manage the mulittude of challenges facing a Smart City transformation. From comprehensive strategy development and project management to ongoing assessements and community engagement, Leading Cities provides cities what they need most: the access to the talent and tools needed to make their vision for a smarter city a reality.

For more detailed information of the *Leading Cities Rating powered by Bright Cities* you can purchase a detailed report that provides the categorical breakdown of scores in each of the 10 dimensions measured. If you need the complete diagnosis of a city with scores on each of the 45 indicators and comparative models, you can engage directly with Bright Cities. Bright Cities provides a comprehensive diagnostic and ready to use roadmap to upgrade your city. In addition to receiving the results of the 45 indicators of the *Leading Cities Rating,* the comprehensive diagnosis includes the 160 indicators Bright Cities uses for global analysis.

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About Leading Cities

Leading Cities, an international nonprofit organization, is a global leader in Smart City solutions, city diplomacy, collaboration advancing sustainability and resilient city strategies and technologies to improve the life quality of cities from all around the world. With itsglobal network of world-class cities, Leading Cities has built tools and networks to share practices, solutions and lessons learned among city leaders while breaking down barriers within cities by engaging each of the five sectors of the Quintuple-helix (Q-helix): Public, Private, Non-profit, Academia and Citizenry.

Contact:
Michael Lake
m.lake@LeadingCities.org
+1.617.506.3499

Bright Cities
UPGRADE YOUR CITY

brightcities.city

About Bright Cities

Bright Cities is a disruptive platform for diagnosing city's roadmap to become a smarter city every day. Using a pioneering methodology, it gathers, analyzes and connects data from various sources to trace diagnoses about cities performances of any size and nationality in ten areas of expertise. From there, the platform establishes a roadmap, listing priority actions, schedules and budgets to improve the life quality of residents, public services and government. Through a gradual evolution, each city analyzed can become more efficient and intelligent until it is fully converted into a smart city.

Contact:
Raquel Cardamone
raquel@brightcities.city
55 19 98175-1088

For media inquiries please contact (Press Office):
Cidades 21 cidades21.com.br 55 11 99658-5053
mariana@cidades21.com.br