

Nashville ranked with 72 major cities on health and environment

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Nashville ranked relatively high in terms of parks and recreation but low in what's being done to reduce global warming, according to a report card on 72 cities put out by a group called the Earth Day Network.

More than 200 environmental and health "indicators" – everything from the number of parks and waste levels to air quality data – are looked at in the report.

Nashville overall was listed in the lower half at spot number 43, with Detroit, Miami, Cleveland, El Paso and Houston ranking the worst.

The best scores went to Fargo, ND, Burlington, VT, Portland, OR, Colorado Springs and Sioux Fall, SD.

The Washington-based Earth Day Network was founded by the organizers of the first Earth Day in 1970. The group's stated mission is promoting environmental citizenship and progressive action worldwide.

"This study is the first of its kind, not only because of the sheer quantity of environmental data analyzed, but also because it redefines the term 'environment' to include public health, poverty, education and other quality of life issues," said Earth Day Network President Kathleen Rogers in a statement released today.

"Expanding the definition of environment is critical to the success of our mission to broaden participation in the environmental movement."

To see the Urban Environment Report city-by-city data go to www.earthday.net/UER/report.

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