

RANK

29 / 75

2019 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Baltimore

Baltimore performed best in transportation policies. The city's score was supported by its recently adopted complete streets ordinance and 2019 Sustainability Plan, as well as the launch of a bike-sharing network that also offers discounts to low-income residents. Baltimore has several options for improving its rank in the next edition, most notably in buildings policies and local government operations.

OVERALL SCORE

39.5 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

3.5

3.5

9



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

6.5

4.5

16



BUILDINGS POLICIES

9.5

9

30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

6.5

5.5

15



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

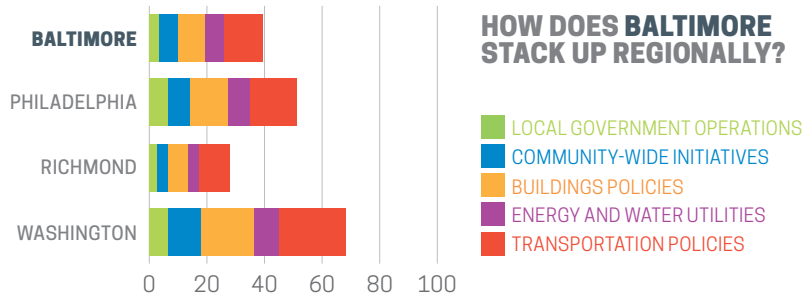
13.5

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3.5 OF 9 POINTS)

Baltimore has set energy-reduction, renewable electricity, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for local government operations. ACEEE does not currently project that the city will reach its goal of reducing GHG emissions 15% from 2007 levels by 2020. The city requires LEED Silver certification for public buildings, benchmarks buildings, and retrofits buildings based on a comprehensive energy use assessment. Baltimore is working to incorporate fuel-efficient vehicles into its fleet to reach its fleet goal. To ramp up its efforts, the city can continue to convert streetlights to LEDs.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (6.5 OF 16 POINTS)

Baltimore's GHG emissions reduction and building energy-savings goals provide the vision for its clean energy efforts. The city has not adopted a community-wide renewable energy goal. ACEEE currently projects that the city will achieve its goal of reducing community-wide GHG emissions 25% by 2020. The city has overseen the creation of municipal combined heat and power (CHP) and on-site solar systems. To better mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city has adopted a goal to double the urban tree canopy by 2037.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (9.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Baltimore enforces the Baltimore County Building Code that is based on the 2015 Maryland Building Performance Standards with local amendments. The city encourages clean energy investments in existing buildings mostly through incentive programs. It offers several incentive programs targeting low-income communities, like the Retrofit Baltimore initiative that provides free energy upgrades to low-income residents. The city partners with a nonprofit, Civic Works, to support renewable energy workforce development.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (6.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Baltimore Gas & Electric (BG&E) shows low savings for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. BG&E offers comprehensive programs for low-income and multifamily households. Through the Baltimore Energy Challenge, the city works closely with its utility to promote energy efficiency. Baltimore is also taking steps to encourage decarbonization; this includes submitting comments to the Public Utility Commission. Baltimore also works to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants, but more could be done.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (13.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Baltimore's 2019 Sustainability Plan includes sustainable transportation provisions; however the city has not adopted vehicle miles traveled (VMT) or transportation-related GHG emissions reduction goals. The city has not adopted mode shift targets. Relative to other city systems, Baltimore's transit system is well funded and accessible. Baltimore encourages mixed-use development through its transect-based code Transform Baltimore. The city has also abolished minimum parking requirements in downtown, commercial, and transit-oriented districts. The city can bolster its location-efficient zoning policies by abolishing minimum parking requirements citywide and offering incentives for transit-oriented development.