

RANK

86/100



OVERALL SCORE

10/100

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Take additional steps to ensure builders comply with energy codes.
- Adopt energy benchmarking and rental energy disclosure policies.
- Adopt more stringent energy stretch codes and solar- and EV-ready requirements.
- Expand high-quality transit access for low-income residents.
- Increase the deployment of EV charging infrastructure.
- Adopt and track a goal for reduction in VMT or transportation sector GHG emissions.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



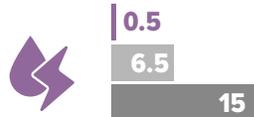
BUILDINGS POLICIES



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



MEDIAN SCORE OF ALL CITIES

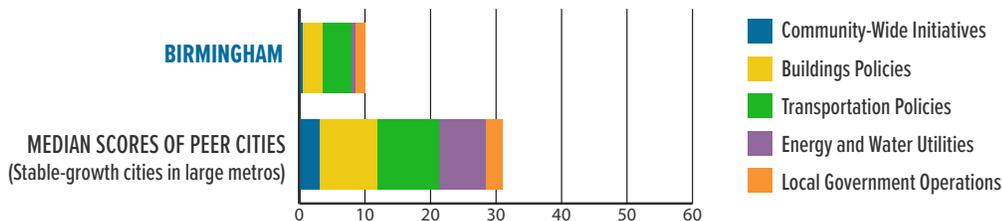
MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE

2021 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

BIRMINGHAM, AL

While Birmingham had a couple of achievements and moved up slightly in the rankings from the previous *Scorecard*, the city has few clean energy policies and substantial room for improvement across all categories. It can pursue foundational clean energy policies that could serve as stepping-stones to a clean energy future.

HOW DOES BIRMINGHAM STACK UP TO PEER CITIES?



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (0.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Birmingham helps reduce urban heat islands by promoting the installation of low-impact development in subdivisions, but has pursued few other community-wide initiatives. It has not adopted citywide climate or energy goals or taken an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning. Birmingham has not supported the creation of community solar or the integration of emissions-reducing technology in distributed energy systems within the community.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (3 OF 30 POINTS)

Birmingham requires residential buildings to comply with the 2015 Alabama Residential Energy Code, which references the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code, and commercial buildings to comply with the 2015 Alabama Commercial Energy Code, which references ASHRAE 90.1-2013. The city has the authority to adopt a stretch code but has not chosen to do so. We could not find information on whether the city has adopted solar ordinances or policies requiring buildings to include EV charging infrastructure or be EV ready. Birmingham allows solar energy use in all zones. The city partnered with local institutions to offer certified Office of Minority Business Enterprise contracting partners training opportunities focused on expanding energy efficiency skills. The city does not have policies that incentivize or require energy efficiency in existing buildings.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (4.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Of low-income households in Birmingham, 0% have access to high-quality transit. With only 14.3 use per 100,000 people, the city has a very low number of EV charging station ports available for public. Birmingham has neither a sustainable freight transportation plan in place nor any policies that address freight efficiency, nor has it codified VMT or transportation-related GHG reduction targets. Transportation entities that serve Birmingham have received roughly \$34.32 per capita on average in local transit funding annually between 2015 and 2019, a very low funding level.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (0.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Alabama Power shows very low savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs. Alagasco did not report savings for natural gas efficiency programs. Neither Alabama Power nor Alagasco offer low-income or multifamily energy efficiency programs. Birmingham does not provide energy use information for community planning or evaluation purposes, or advocate for better ratepayer access to utility data. We cannot confirm whether the city of Birmingham participates in activities or strategies to help spur or encourage more utility-scale or distributed renewable energy generation. Southern Company, Alabama Power's parent company, has set a modest goal to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 compared to 2007 levels.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (1.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Birmingham has converted all streetlights to LEDs. Otherwise, the city has few initiatives to reduce GHG emissions and energy use in local government operations. Birmingham has not established goals for GHG emissions reductions for municipal operations. We were unable to find information indicating that the city has an efficient fleet procurement or outdoor lighting policy. The city has not installed renewable energy systems on municipal facilities or developed a comprehensive retrofit strategy. We were unable to verify if the city has an inclusive procurement policy used for energy projects.