

RANK

90/100



OVERALL SCORE

7.5/100

RECOMMENDATIONS

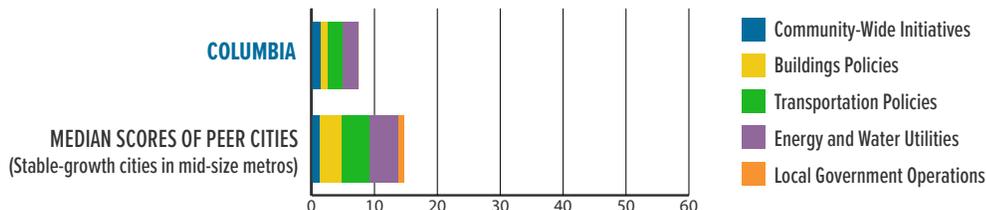
- Improve the energy performance of municipal operations and assets.
- Engage more with utilities to promote clean energy.
- Set and track community-wide goals for GHG emissions.
- Set goals and adopt policies and programs to mitigate the urban heat island effect.
- Adopt solar- and EV-ready requirements in building codes.
- Adopt policies and programs supporting energy efficiency in existing buildings, such as retrocommissioning and audit requirements and incentives, particularly targeting low-income housing.
- Expand high-quality transit access for low-income residents.
- Adopt and track a goal for reduction in VMT or transportation sector GHG emissions.

2021 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

COLUMBIA, SC

Though Columbia had a couple of achievements, the city has few clean energy policies. It can pursue foundational clean energy policies that would serve as stepping-stones to a clean energy future.

HOW DOES COLUMBIA STACK UP TO PEER CITIES?



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (1.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Columbia’s renewable energy goal sets the vision for a clean energy future. It has not adopted citywide climate goals or taken an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning. Columbia has not supported the creation of community solar or the integration of emissions-reducing technology in distributed energy systems within the community.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (1 OF 30 POINTS)

Columbia allows solar in all zones, but otherwise has few initiatives to reduce GHG emissions and energy use in the buildings sector. South Carolina requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code. 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. Columbia does not have programs committed to developing a dedicated energy efficiency or renewable energy workforce. The city does not have policies that incentivize or require energy efficiency in existing buildings.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (2.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Columbia has few initiatives to reduce GHG emissions and energy use in the transportation sector. Of low-income households in Columbia, 0% have access to high-quality transit. With 50.1 per 100,000 people, the city has a moderate number of EV charging station ports available for public use. Columbia 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. The transportation entities that serve Columbia have received roughly \$26.33 per capita on average in local transit funding annually between 2015 and 2019, a very low funding level.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (2.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Dominion Energy South Carolina reports very low savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs, and Dominion Energy did not report savings from natural gas efficiency programs. Dominion offers a portfolio of programs for low-income customers, including a comprehensive program, as well as a comprehensive multifamily program. Columbia neither provides community-wide energy use information at the aggregate level nor advocates for better ratepayer access to utility data. We were unable to confirm whether the city participates in activities or strategies to encourage more utility-scale or distributed renewable energy generation from its local electric utility. Dominion Energy set a moderate goal to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (0 OF 10 POINTS)

Columbia has few initiatives to reduce GHG emissions and energy use in local government operations, and it has not established GHG emissions reduction goals for municipal operations. We were unable to find information indicating that the city has an efficient fleet procurement or outdoor lighting policy. Columbia has not installed renewable energy systems on site, established inclusive procurement policies, or developed a comprehensive retrofit strategy.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



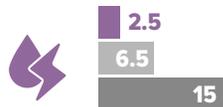
BUILDINGS POLICIES



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



MEDIAN SCORE OF ALL CITIES
MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE