RANK

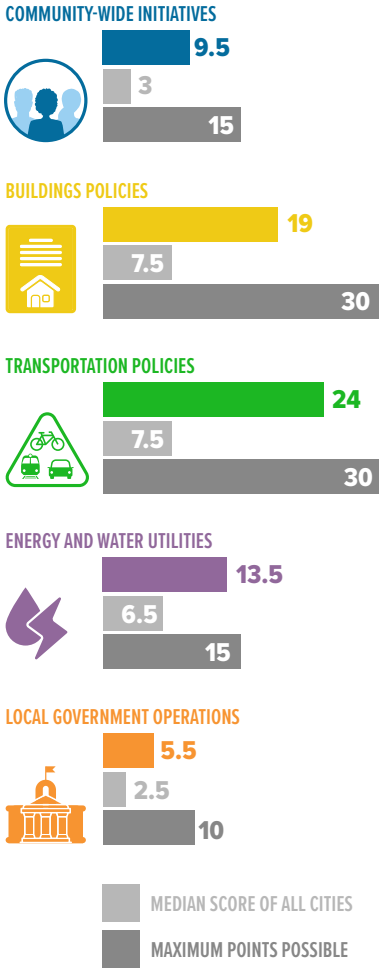
3/100

OVERALL SCORE

71.5/100

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Work with utilities to advance the deployment of renewable energy and support decarbonization.
- Incorporate participatory budgeting procedures in decision-making bodies.
- Convert more streetlights to LEDs.
- Adopt a policy requiring efficient outdoor lighting.

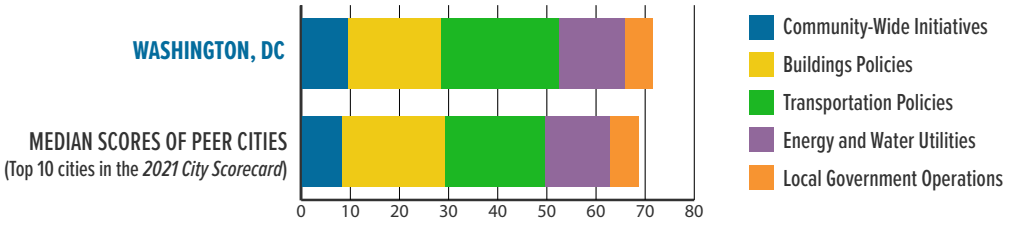


2021 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

WASHINGTON, DC

Washington continued its strong performance from the previous *Scorecard*, moving up in the rankings. The city can rank even higher by taking some recommended clean energy actions

HOW DOES WASHINGTON, DC STACK UP TO PEER CITIES?



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (9.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Washington, DC's climate change mitigation, energy reduction, and renewable energy goals set the vision for a clean energy future. The city adopted a long-term climate mitigation goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. Based on emissions data from past years, ACEEE projects the city will come close to achieving its near-term, community-wide climate mitigation goal of 50% below 2006 levels by 2032. To advance equity-driven planning and implementation, the city created the Equity Advisory Group and advances accountability with its Racial Equity Achieves Results Act. Washington supported the creation of the Oxon Run community solar farm, which reserves shares for low-income residents. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, the city aims to increase urban tree canopy to 40% by 2032.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (19 OF 30 POINTS)

Washington, DC adopted the 2017 DC Construction Code for residential and commercial buildings, which references the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. The District requires buildings to meet solar- and EV-ready requirements. Sustainable construction requirements for commercial and residential buildings and buildings funded by public sources include LEED certifications. Washington requires commercial and multifamily buildings to benchmark energy use. The Clean Energy DC Omnibus Act of 2018 set building performance standards for buildings 50,000 square feet and greater beginning in 2021. This legislation also carves out 30% of revenues for low-income energy actions. The city also offers incentives to spur clean energy investment, including incentives targeted to low-income households.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (24 OF 30 POINTS)

Washington has several initiatives to reduce GHG emissions and energy use in the transportation sector. Of low-income households in DC, 68.7% have access to high-quality transit. With 64.5 per 100,000 people, the city has a moderate number of EV charging station ports available for public use. In 2017, the District Department of Transportation published an amendment to its freight plan which contains metrics for sustainability around air quality as well as transportation efficiency. Sustainable DC 2.0 has a goal to reduce GHG emissions from transportation 60% by 2032 compared to a 2006 baseline. Transportation entities that serve Washington have received roughly $441.02 per capita on average in local transit funding annually between 2015 and 2019, a moderate to high funding level.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (13.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, DC Sustainable Energy Utility's (DCSEU) energy efficiency programs show high savings as a percentage of sales for both Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) and Washington Gas customers. DCSEU offers a portfolio of energy efficiency programs including comprehensive programs for low-income customers and multifamily properties. The District receives aggregated community-wide energy use data annually and uses it in its annual GHG inventory. The District also has advocated for the electric utility to streamline sharing of customer data with third parties. In 2019, PEPCO's parent company Exelon emitted 22.34 metric tons of CO_2e per capita. In 2018, Exelon announced a moderate goal to reduce GHG emissions from its internal operations 15% by 2022 from a 2015 baseline.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (5.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Based on emissions data from past years, ACEEE projects the city will achieve its near-term climate mitigation goal to reduce GHG emissions 50% below 2006 levels by 2032. The city has installed 13 MW of renewable energy systems on municipal facilities, has started to convert streetlights to LEDs, and purchases high-efficiency and zero-emission vehicles. It has not adopted a policy requiring efficient outdoor lighting. The District does not have contracting policies that require contracting with minority- or women-owned businesses. It benchmarks energy use of all municipal buildings and follows a comprehensive retrofit strategy.

ACEEE
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy