

RANK

75/100



OVERALL SCORE

15/100

RECOMMENDATIONS

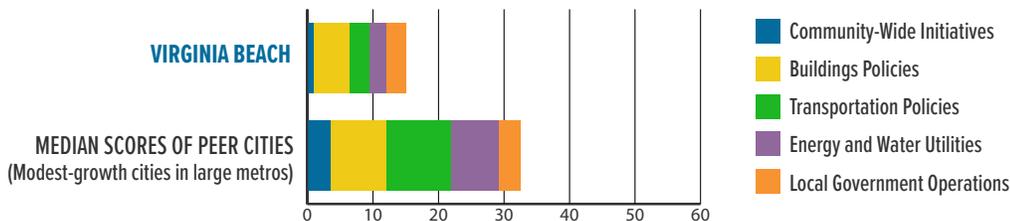
- Create or support energy efficiency workforce development programs and ensure these programs benefit historically marginalized communities.
- Set and track community-wide goals for GHG emissions.
- Establish and track metrics related to energy equity.
- Expand high-quality transit access for low-income residents.
- Increase the deployment of EV charging infrastructure.

2021 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

Virginia Beach has substantial room for improvement across categories and moved down in the rankings from the previous Scorecard. The city can pursue foundational energy policies that could serve as stepping-stones to a clean energy future.

HOW DOES VIRGINIA BEACH STACK UP TO PEER CITIES?



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (1 OF 15 POINTS)

Virginia Beach's energy reduction and urban heat island mitigation goals set the vision for a clean energy future, but the city has pursued few other community-wide initiatives. The city has not taken an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning. Virginia Beach has not supported the creation of community solar or the integration of emissions-reducing technology in distributed energy systems within the community.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (5.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Virginia requires all jurisdictions to enforce the 2015 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, which references the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. The city does not yet advocate for more stringent state energy codes. 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. Virginia Beach does not have programs committed to developing a dedicated energy efficiency or renewable energy workforce. To achieve energy reductions in existing buildings, residential and commercial buildings may earn tax breaks for achieving energy savings as verified by a third-party inspection.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (3 OF 30 POINTS)

Of low-income households in Virginia Beach, 3.4% have access to high-quality transit. With only 4.2 per 100,000 people, the city has a very low number of EV charging station ports available for public use. The city 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. We could not determine the annual local transit funding level for the transportation entities that serve Virginia Beach.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (2.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, both Dominion Energy and Virginia Natural Gas show very low savings as a percentage of sales for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Neither utility provides comprehensive energy efficiency programs for low-income customers or multifamily properties. Virginia Beach does not provide community-wide energy use information at the aggregate level for community planning or evaluation purposes, yet it does advocate on the issue of data sharing by utilities. We were unable to confirm if the city participates in activities or strategies to help spur or encourage more utility-scale or distributed renewable energy generation. Dominion Energy set a moderate goal to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3 OF 10 POINTS)

Virginia Beach has not established goals for GHG emissions reductions for municipal operations. The city requires the use of efficient lighting for government buildings and has converted all streetlights to LEDs. We were unable to find information indicating that the city has an efficient fleet procurement policy. Virginia Beach has installed renewable energy systems on municipal facilities but has not developed a comprehensive retrofit strategy. We were unable to verify if the city had an inclusive procurement policy used for energy projects.

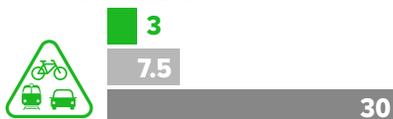
COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



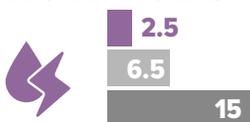
BUILDINGS POLICIES



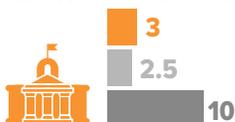
TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



■ MEDIAN SCORE OF ALL CITIES
■ MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE