

OVERALL RANK

70/75

14 out of 18 cities in midsize metro areas

OVERALL SCORE

10%

25.5/250 total points

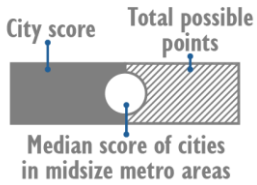
2024 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Charleston, SC

Charleston was one of the weaker performers among its peers, and it fell in the rankings from the previous scorecard. Charleston performed best in the local government operations category and can notably improve in the buildings category.

Recommendations

- Update zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development.
- Track progress toward VMT reduction goals.
- Develop inclusive procurement and contracting processes.
- Work with utilities to formalize partnerships with community-based organizations.
- Develop equity-driven community engagement processes.
- Implement clean energy workforce development initiatives targeting disadvantaged communities.



The following sections highlight Charleston’s performance on a few key metrics that ACEEE Scorecard authors identified as high impact. To learn more about Charleston’s Scorecard results, visit <https://www.aceee.org/city-clean-energy-scorecard>.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



3/45 Points



Charleston has a goal to reduce GHG emissions, but there was not sufficient emissions data to determine if it is on track to meet this goal. Because of limited information, we were unable to determine Charleston’s approach to community engagement or workforce development.

BUILDING POLICIES



4/70 Points



Charleston enforces the state commercial and residential energy code. While South Carolina allows local jurisdictions to adopt energy codes more stringent than that of the state, state laws make it difficult for cities to adopt amendments. Charleston does not have energy efficiency incentive or financing programs.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



9.5/70 Points



Charleston has not recently updated its zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development, nor does the city require new developments to install EV charging stations. However, CARTA and Lime offer reduced fares for income-qualified individuals.

COMMUNITY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE



5/40 Points



Dominion Energy South Carolina (DESC) offers the Neighborhood Energy Efficiency Program to low-income households and launched a multifamily energy savings program in 2020. Charleston partners with DESC through the EnergyWise for Your Business Program. Charleston has installed 714kW of solar arrays at six municipal facilities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



4/25 Points



Charleston’s budget allocates funds annually for building upgrades and energy conservation. Currently, efficient vehicles make up 1% of Charleston’s municipal fleet. Through an agreement with DESC, Charleston has committed to converting approximately 7,000 cobra head-style streetlights to LED.



EQUITABLE PRACTICES: 5.5/85.5 POINTS

Each chapter of the City Scorecard included metrics assessing equitable practices cities are taking to advance clean energy, totaling 85.5 points available across the

