

OVERALL RANK

67/75

12 out of 18 cities in midsize metro areas

OVERALL SCORE

13%

32.5/250 total points

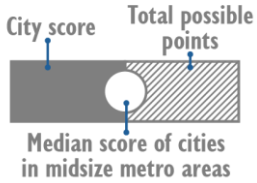
2024 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Durham, NC

Durham is in the middle of the pack among its peers. Durham performed best in the community energy infrastructure category and can notably improve in the community-wide initiatives category. This is the first time Durham is included in the *City Scorecard*.

Recommendations

- Update zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development.
- Form partnerships with utilities to encourage clean energy goals, programs, and investments.
- Set and track progress toward VMT reduction goals.
- 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 Durham’s performance on a few key metrics that ACEEE Scorecard authors identified as high impact. To learn more about Durham’s Scorecard results, visit <https://www.aceee.org/city-clean-energy-scorecard>.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



0/45 Points



Durham 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 Durham’s approach to community engagement or workforce development.

BUILDING POLICIES



3/70 Points



Durham is required to comply with the North Carolina Energy Conservation Code. New construction of public buildings between 4,000 and 10,000 sq ft must achieve LEED Silver and buildings larger than 10,000 sq ft must achieve LEED Gold. Durham does not have incentives or financing programs for energy-saving actions.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



5.5/70 Points



Durham 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, Durham provides free transit via GoDurham and partners with Bird and Spin to offer discounted micromobility services for residents enrolled in assistance programs.

COMMUNITY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE



16/40 Points



Because of limited information, we were unable to determine whether utilities serving Durham offer low-income or multifamily programs or whether Durham has partnerships with these utilities. Durham purchases a 20 MW share of renewable energy from Duke Energy.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



8/25 Points



Durham’s plan to maximize energy efficiency includes converting all lighting in city buildings and outside to LEDs, performing energy audits, and developing a comprehensive Energy Management Plan for City buildings over 5,000 square feet. 95% of streetlights in Durham have been converted to LED. We were unable to obtain data regarding fleet composition.



EQUITABLE PRACTICES: 15/85.5 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 Scorecard.

