

OVERALL RANK

61/75

52 out of 57 cities in large metro areas

OVERALL SCORE

16%

40/250 total points

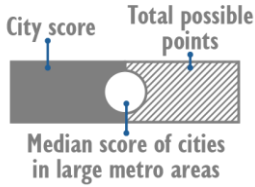
2024 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Richmond, VA

Richmond was one of the weaker performers among its peers, and it fell in the rankings from the previous scorecard. Richmond performed best in the community energy infrastructure category and can notably improve in the buildings category.

Recommendations

- Create more incentive and financing programs designed for disadvantaged communities.
- Set and track progress toward VMT reduction goals.
- Work with utilities to formalize partnerships with community-based organizations.
- Create or expand bike networks that connect people with a variety of destinations.
- Update zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development.
- Implement clean energy workforce development initiatives targeting disadvantaged communities.



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

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

9/45 Points



Richmond is on track to meet its near-term goal to reduce GHG emissions 45% below 2008 levels by 2030. RVAgreen 2050 has a paid Racial Equity and Environmental Roundtable comprising residents from disadvantaged communities who are contributing to planning, outreach, and engagement. Because of limited information, we were unable to determine Richmond’s approach to workforce development.

BUILDING POLICIES

7.5/70 Points



Richmond is required to comply with the 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code. Richmond has a Green and Health Homes Initiative that provides housing assessments and interventions, including equity and employment efforts for low-income residents.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

13/70 Points



Richmond has not recently updated its zoning code to facilitate location-efficient development, nor does the city require new developments to install EV charging. Richmond does not provide subsidized access to efficient transportation for disadvantaged communities.

COMMUNITY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

8.5/40 Points



Dominion Energy offers energy assessments and appliance installation to income- and age-qualifying customers but does not have programs targeted at multifamily properties. Richmond has started discussions with Dominion Energy to collaborate on RVAgreen 2050, increase renewable energy, and meet the city’s GHG emissions reduction goal.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

2/25 Points



Richmond has audited 40 of its worst-performing buildings, which are currently undertaking improvements. Richmond is in the process of converting streetlights to LED, and efficient vehicles, including battery electric vehicles, make up 0.1% of the city’s municipal fleet.



EQUITABLE PRACTICES: 13/85.5 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.

