

RANK

91 / 100

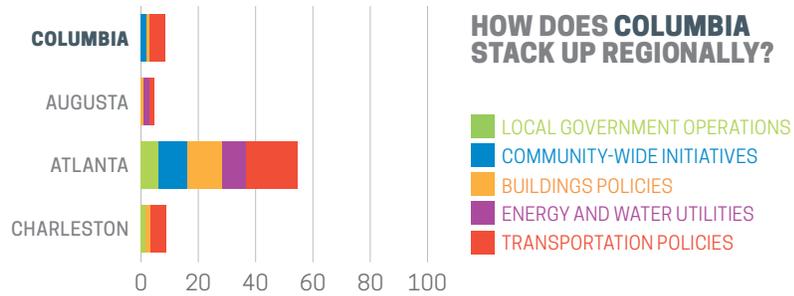
2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

# Columbia

OVERALL SCORE

8.5 / 100

Although the city had a couple of achievements in transportation policies, Columbia has few clean energy policies. The city can ramp up its efforts by increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy usage in its own operations. It also can pursue foundational clean energy policies such as adopting energy reduction goals for the local government and the rest of the community. In addition, Columbia can work to make its buildings more energy efficient, increase efficiency in energy and water services, and create a sustainable transportation plan to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) citywide. These could serve as stepping-stones to a clean energy future.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (0 OF 10 POINTS)

Columbia has a renewable energy goal for local government operations; however, it has few other initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy use in local government operations. The city can ramp up its efforts by establishing municipal energy reduction and renewable electricity goals. Columbia can reduce emissions from its existing buildings by benchmarking building energy use, developing a comprehensive retrofit strategy, and conducting energy retrofits. It can also increase clean energy by setting fleet efficiency requirements, converting streetlights to LED, and installing renewable energy systems.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (2 OF 15 POINTS)

Columbia's renewable energy goal sets the vision for a clean energy future. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city can adopt citywide climate and energy reduction goals, take an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning, and adopt a formal policy, rule, or agreement that supports the creation of clean, distributed energy systems within the community.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (1 OF 30 POINTS)

South Carolina requires residential and commercial buildings to comply with the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code. Columbia has the authority to adopt an energy code more stringent than the state's but has not chosen to do so. The city can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its buildings sector by adopting energy efficiency policies, such as benchmarking requirements, for existing buildings, offering incentives, and developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (0 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Dominion Energy South Carolina reports low savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs, and the utility does not report spending or savings on natural gas efficiency programs. While it does not offer a multifamily energy efficiency program, the utility does offer a program for low-income customers. Columbia can encourage utility-scale or distributed renewable energy generation from its electric utility. Additionally, the city can increase energy and water efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (5.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Columbia has adopted a complete streets policy; however, it has not adopted a sustainable transportation plan, goals to reduce VMT/GHG emissions from transportation, or mode shift targets. Adopting and tracking progress toward these goals would help lay the groundwork for transportation action. Ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world; Columbia can improve the accessibility of and direct investment towards its transit system. Columbia can further promote sustainable transportation within the city by offering incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles and the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



### COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



### BUILDINGS POLICIES



### ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES



### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE