

RANK

89 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

# Greensboro

Greensboro had a couple of achievements in transportation policies; however, the city has few clean energy policies and substantial room to improve across all categories, particularly in local government operations and community-wide initiatives. As a starting point, Greensboro can pursue foundational clean energy policies such as establishing climate and energy goals for the local government and community. It also can work to make its private buildings more energy efficient and reduce energy waste in government buildings. These could serve as stepping-stones to a clean energy future.

OVERALL SCORE

9 / 100



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



## BUILDINGS POLICIES



## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

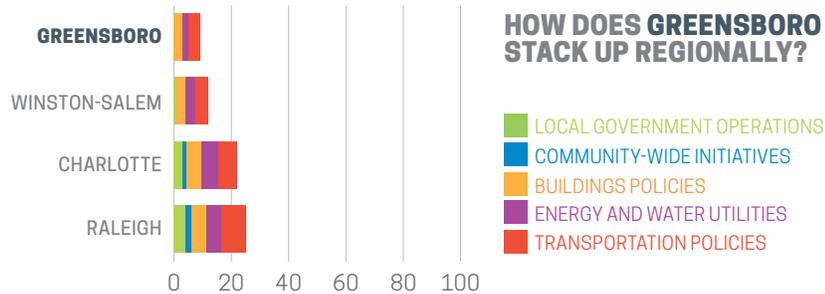


## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (0 OF 10 POINTS)

Greensboro has few 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, renewable electricity, and GHG emissions reduction goals. Greensboro also 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 LEDs, and installing renewable energy systems.

### COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (0 OF 15 POINTS)

Greensboro released the 2011 Sustainability Plan; however, it has not been formally adopted. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city can adopt citywide climate and energy 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 (3 OF 30 POINTS)

North Carolina requires local jurisdictions to enforce the 2018 North Carolina Energy Conservation Codes for residential and commercial buildings. Greensboro does not yet advocate for more stringent state energy codes. 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 (2 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Duke Energy Carolinas shows low savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs. Piedmont Natural Gas does not report spending or savings on natural gas efficiency programs. Piedmont Natural Gas does not offer targeted efficiency programs; however, Duke Energy Carolinas provides energy efficiency programs for both low-income customers and multifamily properties. The city can encourage utility-scale or distributed renewable energy generation from its electric utility. Additionally, Greensboro can increase energy and water efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (4 OF 30 POINTS)

The city encourages mixed-use development in the Central Business District and the Commercial High District. While the Greensboro Sustainability Action Plan includes sustainable transportation provisions, Greensboro has not yet adopted quantitative goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled/GHG emissions from transportation or mode shift targets. Adopting and tracking progress toward these goals would help lay the groundwork for transportation action. The city can improve the accessibility of and direct investment towards its transit system; ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world. Greensboro 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.