

RANK

72 / 100

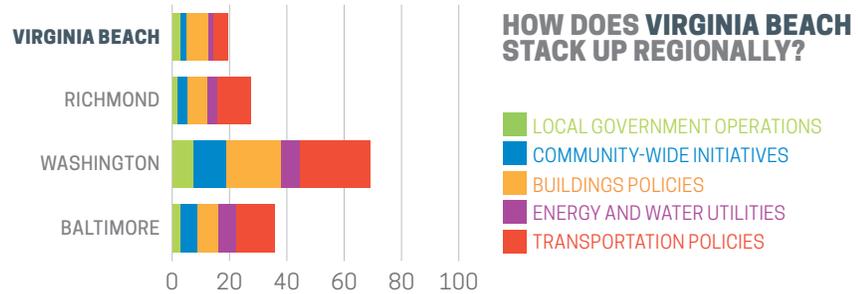
OVERALL SCORE

19.5 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

# Virginia Beach

Virginia Beach had its best achievements in local government operations due to some procurement and construction policies. The city also benchmarks municipal buildings, retrofits some, and has LED lighting requirements. Nevertheless, the city has substantial room for improvement across categories. It can pursue foundational energy policies like establishing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and renewable energy goals for the local government and the community. Virginia Beach can also work to make existing buildings more energy efficient, support clean distributed energy systems, and set mode shift targets to encourage multimodal transportation. These could serve as stepping-stones to a clean energy future.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3 OF 10 POINTS)

Virginia Beach has a goal to reduce municipal energy use 5% below 2015 levels by 2020. It benchmarks energy use of municipal buildings and conducts building energy retrofits through performance contracting. The city has design standards that require the use of LEDs in city-owned outdoor lights and converts streetlights to LEDs. The city also has a flexible workplace policy for employees. To increase its efforts, Virginia Beach can require the purchase of high-efficiency vehicles and install renewable energy systems on municipal facilities.

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

Virginia Beach's energy reduction and urban heat island mitigation goals set the vision for a clean energy future, but the city has pursued few other community-wide initiatives. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city can adopt citywide climate and renewable 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 (7.5 OF 30 POINTS)

The state of Virginia requires all jurisdictions to enforce the 2015 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, which references the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. Virginia Beach advocates for more stringent state energy codes. To achieve energy reductions in existing buildings, the city offers incentives to spur clean energy investment. The state prohibits Virginia Beach from adopting policies requiring energy saving action, but the city can do more to reduce GHG emissions in its building sector by initiating voluntary energy challenge programs and developing an equitable clean energy workforce.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (2 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Dominion Energy and Virginia Natural Gas show low savings as a percentage of sales for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. While Dominion Energy offers a low-income energy efficiency program, neither utility provides energy efficiency programs for multifamily properties. The city can encourage utility-scale or distributed renewable energy generation from its electric utility. Additionally, Virginia Beach can continue to increase energy and water efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (5 OF 30 POINTS)

Virginia Beach adopted a form-based code for ocean-front neighborhoods. The city also encourages the development of affordable housing near transit-served areas. While the Sustainability Plan includes sustainable transportation provisions, Virginia Beach 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. Virginia Beach can improve the accessibility of and direct investment in its transit system; ensuring continued financial support for service and operations will be crucial in a post-COVID world. Virginia Beach 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

3

2.5

10



### COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

2

3

15



### BUILDINGS POLICIES

7.5

7

30



### ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

2

5.5

15



### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

5

8.5

30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE