

RANK

83 / 100

2020 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

Winston-Salem

While Winston-Salem has some achievements, the city has few clean energy policies and substantial room for improvement across all categories, particularly in community-wide initiatives. The city can pursue foundational clean energy policies like establishing climate and energy goals for the community and local government. The city can also work to make private buildings more energy efficient, address energy waste in government buildings, and encourage more utility-scale renewable energy generations. These could serve as stepping-stones to a clean energy future.

OVERALL SCORE

12 / 100



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

1
2.5
10



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

0
3
15



BUILDINGS POLICIES

3
7
30



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

3.5
5.5
15

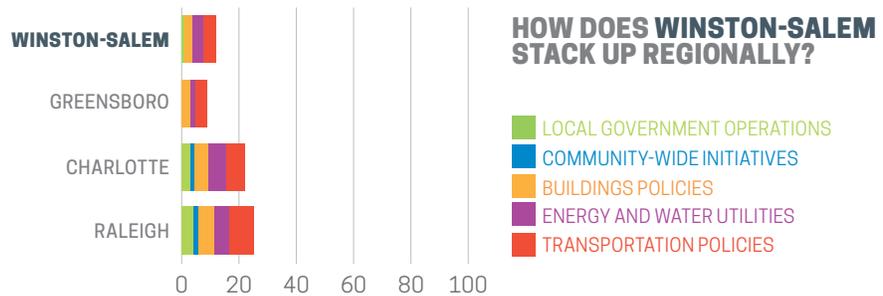


TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

4.5
8.5
30

MEDIAN SCORE

MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (1 OF 10 POINTS)

Winston-Salem converted all streetlights to LEDs; otherwise, it 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. Winston-Salem 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 and installing onsite renewable energy systems.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (0 OF 15 POINTS)

Winston-Salem has few community-wide initiatives aimed at reducing GHG emissions. 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. The city advocates for more stringent state energy codes through the Cities Initiatives. Winston-Salem can do more to reduce GHG emissions from 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 (3.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Compared to other utilities, Duke Energy Carolinas shows moderate savings as a percentage of sales for electric efficiency programs. Piedmont Natural Gas does not report spending or savings on natural gas efficiency programs. Duke Energy Carolinas offers multiple low-income and multifamily energy efficiency programs, but Piedmont Natural Gas does not provide any programs. Winston-Salem can create a partnership with the utilities to develop an energy savings strategy. The city can encourage utility-scale or distributed renewable energy generation from its electric utility. Additionally, the city can continue to increase energy and water efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (4.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Winston-Salem's zoning code encourages transit-oriented development. While the 2035 Transportation Plan Update includes sustainable transportation provisions, the city 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. Winston-Salem 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.