

RANK

42/100



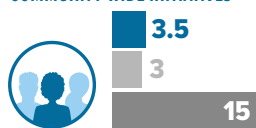
OVERALL SCORE

30/100

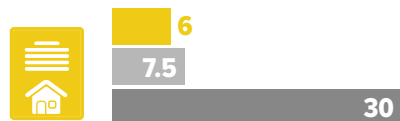
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adopt solar- and EV-ready requirements in building codes.
- Adopt policies and programs that take an equitable approach to increasing energy efficiency in existing buildings.
- Expand high-quality transit access for low-income residents.
- Increase the deployment of EV charging infrastructure.
- Adopt and track a goal for reduction in transportation sector VMT or GHG emissions.

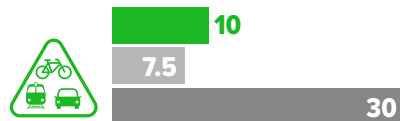
COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES



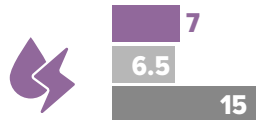
BUILDINGS POLICIES



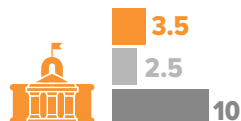
TRANSPORTATION POLICIES



ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



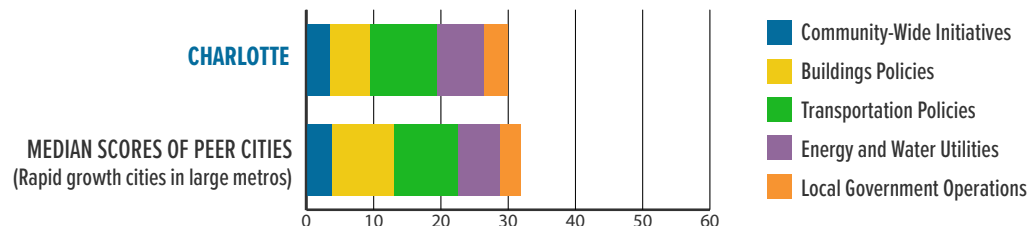
■ MEDIAN SCORE OF ALL CITIES  
■ MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE

2021 CITY CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARD

CHARLOTTE, NC

Charlotte performed best in energy and water utilities and moved up several places in the rankings from the previous Scorecard. However, the city has room for improvement across all categories to continue its advancement.

HOW DOES CHARLOTTE STACK UP TO PEER CITIES?



COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (3.5 OF 15 POINTS)

Charlotte's GHG emissions reduction goal sets the vision for a clean energy future. Based on emissions data from past years, ACEEE projects the city will not achieve its community-wide GHG emissions reduction goal of 2tCO<sub>2</sub>e per capita by 2050. Charlotte supported the creation of a microgrid that integrates emissions-reducing technology. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, Charlotte aims to increase the urban tree canopy 50% by 2050. It has not adopted citywide clean energy goals, but it has taken an equity-driven approach to clean energy planning by requiring the use of a racial equity tool during budgeting.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (6 OF 30 POINTS)

North Carolina requires local jurisdictions to enforce the 2018 North Carolina Energy Conservation Codes for residential and commercial buildings, which is less stringent than the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. Charlotte has advocated for more stringent state energy codes; however, the city has limited authority to adopt policies beyond the state energy code and therefore has not adopted a solar- or EV-ready ordinance. In partnership with Urban League of Central Carolinas, Charlotte has launched the Renewable Energy and Efficiency Workforce Training Program, which provides paid training opportunities for city residents with barriers to employment. Charlotte offers incentives such as density bonuses to spur clean energy investment.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (10 OF 30 POINTS)

Of low-income households in Charlotte, 13.5% have access to high-quality transit. With only 31.2 ports per 100,000 people, the city has a low number of EV charging station ports available for public use. Charlotte has neither a sustainable freight transportation plan in place nor policies that address freight efficiency, nor has it codified either VMT or transportation-related GHG reduction targets. The transportation entities that serve Charlotte have received roughly \$135.02 per capita on average in local transit funding annually between 2015 and 2019, a moderate funding level.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (7 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 a portfolio of low-income energy efficiency programs that includes comprehensive programs. Piedmont Natural Gas does not provide any programs for low-income customers or multifamily properties. Charlotte has advocated for better access to utility data and has encouraged efforts to decarbonize the electric grid. Duke Energy set a moderate goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (3.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Charlotte has adopted a goal to power local government operations with 100% carbon-free energy by 2030 but has not established GHG emissions reduction or energy reduction goals. Charlotte identifies energy efficiency retrofit opportunities through two to three annual audits that are used to prioritize projects. The city also requires the procurement of energy-efficient vehicles and has installed renewable energy systems on municipal buildings. It sets annual minority- and women-owned business enterprise utilization goals, which were applied to a recent utility-scale solar project.