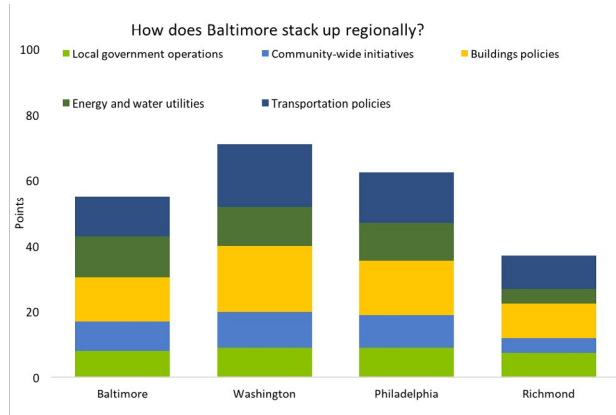
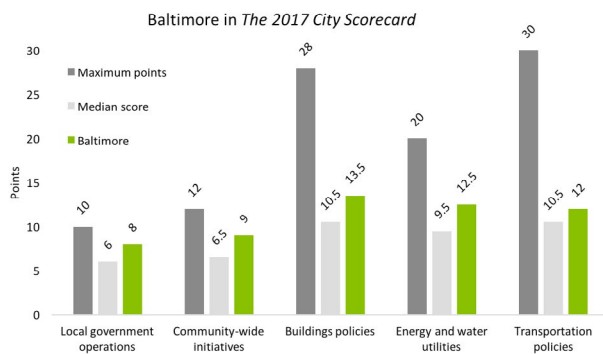


# 15 Baltimore



Baltimore ranked 15th in the *2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, falling four spots from 2015. The city earned 55 points out of a possible 100, 3 points more than last time.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (8 OF 10 POINTS)

Baltimore has energy savings and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for local government operations. The city has green building requirements for new buildings and a comprehensive retrofit strategy for existing buildings. It also benchmarks the energy use of much of the municipal building stock and works to increase efficiency in vehicle fleets, public lighting, and equipment procurement.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (9 OF 12 POINTS)

The Baltimore Climate Action Plan includes goals to reduce GHG emissions and building energy use across the city. Adopted in 2013, the plan requires the city to reduce community-wide GHG emissions 1.5% annually through 2020. The city has identified several high-priority sites to build combined heat and power systems and is assisting community partners in planning for these systems. Baltimore has a goal to double to city's tree canopy coverage to 40% of urban land by 2037 to mitigate the urban heat island effect.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (13.5 OF 28 POINTS)

Maryland municipalities can adopt building energy codes more stringent than the statewide codes. Baltimore adopted the 2015 Maryland Building Performance Standards with local amendments. The city has dedicated government staff for energy code compliance and requires training for building code officials on energy code plan review and inspection. The city encourages energy efficiency in buildings through a green buildings requirement and several low-interest loan incentives for energy efficiency upgrades. The city can further encourage energy efficiency in private buildings by pursuing benchmarking and transparency, audit, or retrofit requirements.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (12.5 OF 20 POINTS)

Baltimore Gas & Electric (BGE) has moderate budgets for electric and natural gas efficiency programs and moderate levels of energy savings. BGE offers energy efficiency programs to reach low-income and multifamily markets. Baltimore could improve its efficiency in water services by establishing a water-savings goal and improving energy efficiency at its water utilities.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (12/30 POINTS)

As part of Baltimore's new zoning code, the city has designated transit-oriented development zones and more mixed-use zones and eliminated minimum parking requirements downtown. Baltimore has a complete streets policy, but does not offer incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles (EV) or installation of EV charging stations. Baltimore does not have a sustainable transportation plan and has not developed a target for encouraging a more sustainable transportation system.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Baltimore's drop in rank despite its increase in score demonstrates the increasing competition among cities in the *2017 Scorecard*, especially among those ranked 11th to 20th overall. While Baltimore's score was better than in 2015, other cities around Baltimore have improved, so maintaining rank was more difficult. The city's higher score and good showing across several policy areas show its continuing commitment to energy efficiency. The city performed best in local government operations and community-wide initiatives; its greatest opportunities for improvement are in buildings policies and transportation policies.