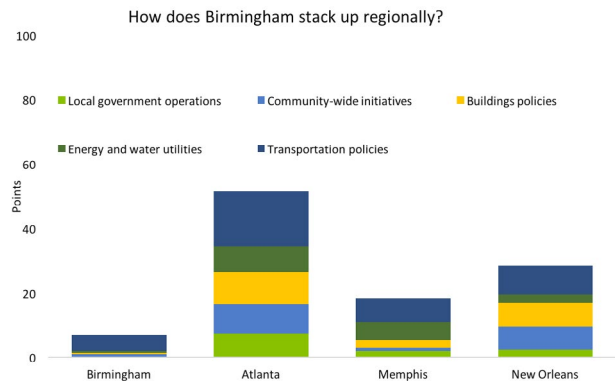
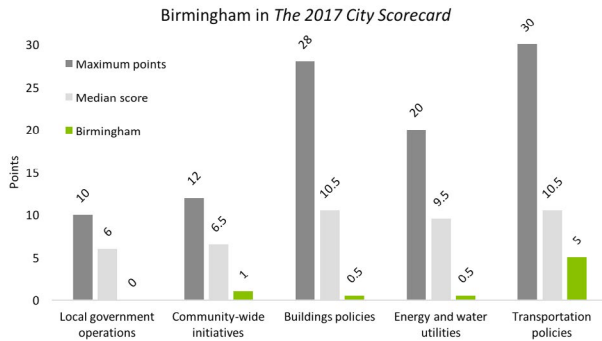


# 51 Birmingham



Birmingham ranked 51st in the *2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, falling one spot since 2015. The city earned 7 points out of a possible 100, 7.5 points fewer than last time.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (0 OF 10 POINTS)

Birmingham has a good deal of room to improve its energy efficiency efforts in local government operations. It can do so by developing an energy savings goals, enacting an energy efficiency requirement for new buildings, and developing a comprehensive retrofit strategy for existing buildings.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (1 OF 12 POINTS)

Birmingham has few community-wide initiatives aimed at improving energy efficiency. The city's conservation subdivision ordinance has the potential to reduce the city's urban heat island through preservation of private land.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (0.5 OF 28 POINTS)

Alabama allows jurisdictions to adopt codes more stringent than the state-mandated codes, but Birmingham has not done so. The city has done little to encourage energy efficiency in private buildings, and can improve by dedicating more resources to building energy code compliance and pursuing energy audit and retrofit requirements.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (0.5 OF 20 POINTS)

The utilities serving Birmingham have immense opportunity to improve their investments in energy efficiency. Alabama Power earned credit only for providing automated benchmarking data in ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager® to some building

owners. Alabama Power and Alagasco can both greatly increase spending on and savings from efficiency programs, and they can design programs to reach underserved communities. Birmingham also has the opportunity to improve efficiency in water services.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (5 OF 30 POINTS)

Birmingham has reduced minimum parking requirements in some neighborhoods to one space and has a complete streets policy. Otherwise, the city has not pursued policies to increase transportation efficiency. To improve its standing in the next scorecard, the city could develop a sustainable transportation plan, enact location-efficient zoning policies, or pursue policies to encourage energy-efficient modes of transportation.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Birmingham has enacted few energy efficiency policies, so the city has significant room to improve across all policy areas. It can improve by pursuing foundational energy efficiency policies, like developing a community-wide energy savings goal, adopting a more-stringent building energy code, and creating a sustainable transportation plan to reduce vehicle miles traveled citywide. These could serve as stepping stones to more comprehensive energy efficiency policies in the future.