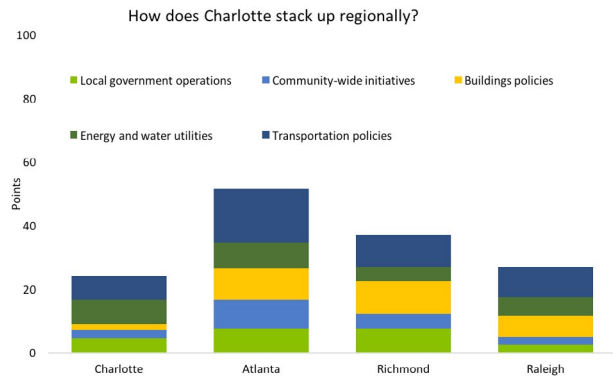
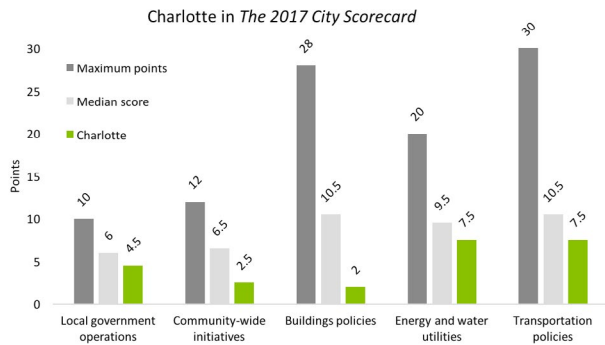


# 45 Charlotte



Charlotte ranked 45th in the *2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, falling 12 spots since 2015. The city earned 24 points out of a possible 100, 7.5 points fewer than last time.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (4.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Charlotte is finalizing an energy savings goal for local government operations. It has a comprehensive building retrofit strategy, benchmarks the energy use of all municipal buildings, and requires energy-efficient equipment procurement.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (2.5 OF 12 POINTS)

Charlotte regularly releases neighborhood-level energy consumption data to encourage private-sector energy efficiency initiatives. The city is also working to mitigate its urban heat island effect through a tree planting partnership with Trees Charlotte, adopting a goal of 50% tree canopy coverage of urban land by 2050. It also enforces a private tree protection ordinance.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (2 OF 28 POINTS)

North Carolina requires local jurisdictions to comply with the state mandated building energy codes. Charlotte has not enacted many policies to reduce energy use in private buildings. The city can do more to encourage energy efficiency in buildings, including pursuing audit and retrofit requirements and dedicating more resources to building energy code compliance.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (7.5 OF 20 POINTS)

The energy utilities serving Charlotte could increase their investment in electric and natural gas efficiency. Duke Energy Carolinas has moderate spending and savings for electric efficiency programs, while Piedmont Natural gas earned no credit for efficiency. Duke Energy runs low-income and multifamily efficiency programs. Charlotte scored well for efficiency efforts in water services because of a strong water-saving strategy and stormwater planning.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (7.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Charlotte has many electric vehicle charging stations available to the public. It also administers a bike-share program. Charlotte's Transportation Action Plan sets a framework for increasing the efficiency and sustainability of the city's transportation, but many of the strategies included in the plan have not been implemented.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Charlotte's lower score in the *2017 Scorecard* was partially because of this edition's de-emphasis of local government operations. While the city has enacted an energy efficiency policy or program in most policy areas, it has room to improve across the board, which it can do by pursuing foundational energy efficiency actions, like lead-by-example strategies and developing community-wide energy savings goals. Charlotte has the most room for improvement for building policies, but it can improve its score in several ways, including advocating for more-stringent building energy codes, creating audit and retrofit requirements, and dedicating more resources to building energy code compliance.