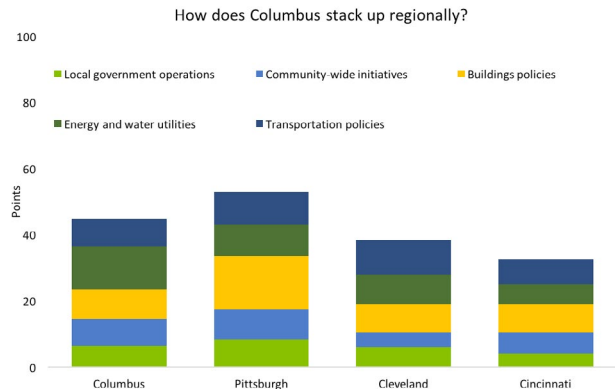
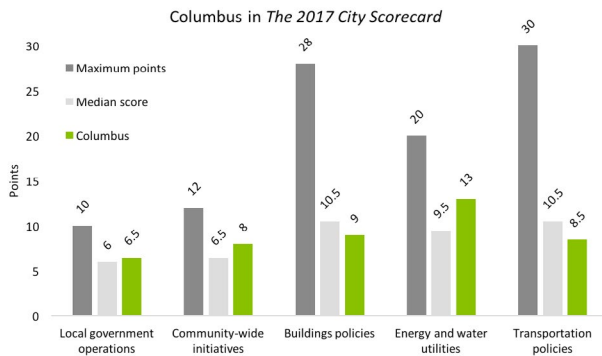


# 21 Columbus



Columbus ranked 21st in the *2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, gaining 4 positions from 2015. The city earned 45 points out of a possible 100, 6.5 points more than last time.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (6.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Columbus has a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target for local government operations. The city annually reports progress towards its GHG target and is projected to meet the goal. Columbus has an energy efficiency requirement for new buildings and benchmarks the energy use of 98% of municipal buildings, but it does not have a comprehensive retrofit strategy. Columbus could improve by increasing energy efficiency in vehicle fleets, public lighting, and equipment procurement.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (8 OF 12 POINTS)

The Columbus Green Community Plan: Green Memo III, adopted in 2016, lays out community-wide goals for energy savings and reductions in GHG emissions. Columbus is targeting a 4.7% annual reduction in GHG through 2020 and is on track to achieve this goal. The city is working to mitigate its urban heat island with the Branch Out Columbus tree planting initiative, which aims to increase urban tree canopy coverage from 22% to 27% by 2020.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (9 OF 28 POINTS)

Ohio has statewide building energy codes that all communities must follow. The city has not adopted a building benchmarking and transparency ordinance, but the Columbus Energy Challenge encourages benchmarking in large buildings. The city has room to do more as it has few energy efficiency incentives or requirements for energy-efficient buildings.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (13 OF 20 POINTS)

The energy utilities serving Columbus have moderate budgets for energy efficiency programs and moderate energy savings. Both American Electric Power (AEP) Ohio and Columbia Gas of Ohio have programs for low-income households. Columbus earned a perfect score for energy efficiency efforts in water services.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (8.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Columbus encourages mode shift through its complete streets policy and bike- and car-sharing programs. The city has a municipal planning code that includes zoning overlays to encourage pedestrian- and transit-friendly development. However, the city does not have a plan outlining future strategies or goals to increase the efficiency of its transportation sector. It also does not have incentives for efficient vehicles or electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Columbus improved its performance from the *2015 City Scorecard* because of recent policy developments captured in community-wide initiatives. Most notably, the city adopted the Columbus Green Community Plan: Green Memo III, which has community-wide goals for energy savings and reductions in GHG emissions. The city can further improve its score by increasing its focus on buildings policies and transportation policies.