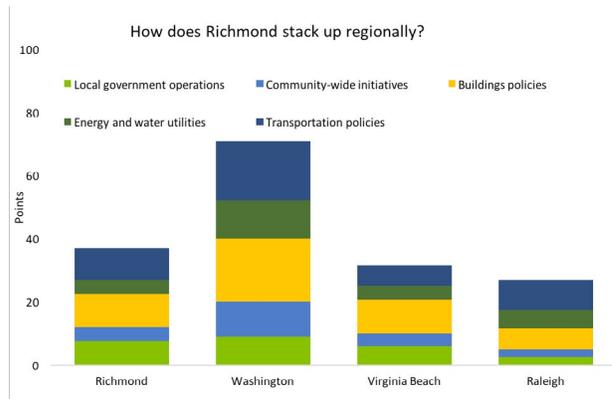
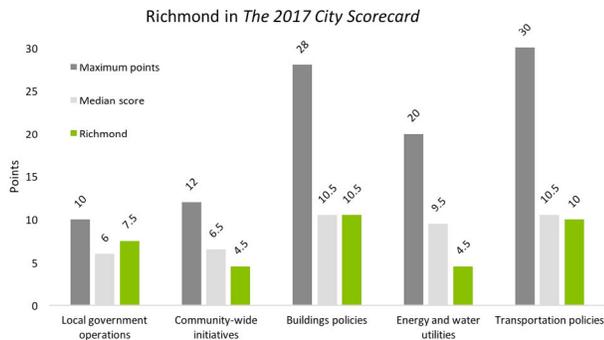


# 28 Richmond



Richmond ranked 28th in the *2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, gaining 9 positions. The city earned 37 points out of a possible 100, 9 points more than last time.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (7.5 OF 10 POINTS)

Richmond has energy savings and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for local government operations. The city is projected to meet its GHG target. Richmond has pursued energy efficiency retrofits in several local government buildings. The city benchmarks the energy use of more than 80% of all public buildings and has an energy efficiency requirement for new buildings. Richmond could get more energy savings by requiring energy-efficient vehicle fleets and public lighting.

## COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (4.5 OF 12 POINTS)

The 2014 RVAgreen Annual Progress Report proposed a community-wide goal to reduce GHG emissions 2.1% annually through 2050. Richmond fast tracks building permits for development projects that incorporate green roofs to mitigate the city's urban heat island.

## BUILDINGS POLICIES (10.5 OF 28 POINTS)

Virginia requires municipalities to follow the 2012 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code for residential and commercial construction. Richmond advocates for more-stringent state building codes. The city requires training for building code officials on energy code plan review and inspection and provides upfront support to developers, builders, and owners for building code compliance. The city can do more to encourage energy efficiency in private buildings, including pursuing audit and retrofit requirements and dedicating more resources to building energy code compliance.

## ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (4.5 OF 20 POINTS)

The energy utilities serving Richmond have much room for improvement in energy efficiency efforts. Neither Dominion Virginia Power nor the Richmond Department of Public Utilities received credit for spending or savings in electric or natural gas efficiency programs. Richmond earned partial credit for data access and efficiency in water services, including its water utilities' efficiency projects and stormwater and green infrastructure planning.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (10 OF 30 POINTS)

Richmond's sustainability plan, *RVAgreen*, includes a transportation section with strategies for reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT), but there are no codified targets. The city's zoning ordinance includes form-based and mixed-use zoning to promote more-efficient development. Richmond also has a robust complete streets policy. Other than these efforts, the city has few initiatives to promote efficiency in transportation.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Richmond improved its performance from the *2015 City Scorecard* due to improved scores for local government operations, community-wide initiatives, and buildings policies. For example, the city earned more points for establishing a goal to reduce GHG emissions in local government operations and drafting a goal to reduce community-wide GHG emissions. The city can further improve its score and move up the rankings by increasing its focus on buildings policies, transportation policies, and energy and water utilities.