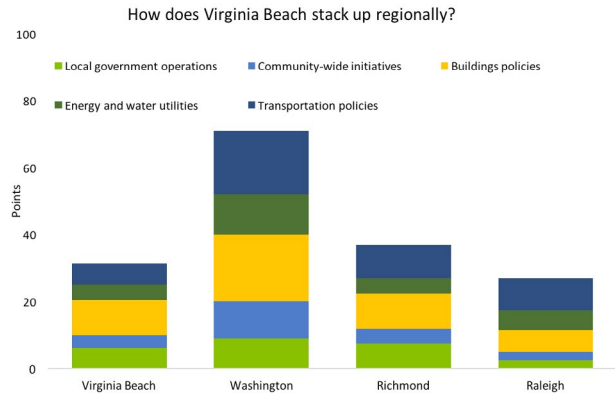
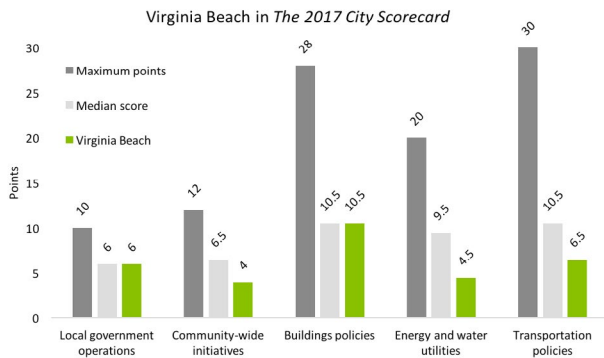


36 Virginia Beach



Virginia Beach ranked 36th in the *2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, gaining 10 spots from 2015. The city earned 31.5 points out of a possible 100, 9 points more than last time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (6 OF 10 POINTS)

Virginia Beach has an energy savings goal for local government operations. We project the city is on track to meet it. Virginia Beach currently benchmarks energy use in 100% of municipal buildings, but it does not have a comprehensive retrofit strategy. The city has worked to increase efficiency in equipment procurement and upgrade a significant portion of its streetlights to LEDs, but it could still implement a fuel efficiency requirement for its vehicle fleet.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (4 OF 12 POINTS)

Virginia Beach adopted an energy savings goal as part of its comprehensive plan. In 2014, the city adopted an urban heat island mitigation goal to achieve 45% tree canopy cover of urban land by 2034. To help achieve this goal, the city is providing tax incentives for permanently protecting forests and other natural private lands.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (10.5 OF 28 POINTS)

Virginia requires its municipalities to follow the 2012 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code for residential and commercial construction. Virginia Beach advocates for more-stringent state building energy codes. The city offers tax breaks for energy-efficient residential and commercial buildings. 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 Virginia Beach could increase their efforts in energy efficiency. Dominion Virginia Power and VA Natural Gas earned no credit for electric or natural gas efficiency spending or savings. VA Natural Gas offers a low-income efficiency program. Virginia Beach earned partial credit for its efficiency efforts in water services.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (6.5 OF 30 POINTS)

Virginia Beach has a sustainable transportation plan in place to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), but the plan does not include a specific VMT target. The city's zoning code encourages compact, mixed-use development. Virginia Beach has eliminated minimum parking requirements in certain areas. Other than these efforts, the city has few initiatives to increase efficiency in transportation.

HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Virginia Beach significantly improved its standing in the *2017 City Scorecard* because of positive policy developments over the last two years. For example, the city has set energy savings goals for local government operations and the community in its 2016 comprehensive plan. The city still has room for improvement across the five policy areas, especially in transportation policies and energy and water utilities.