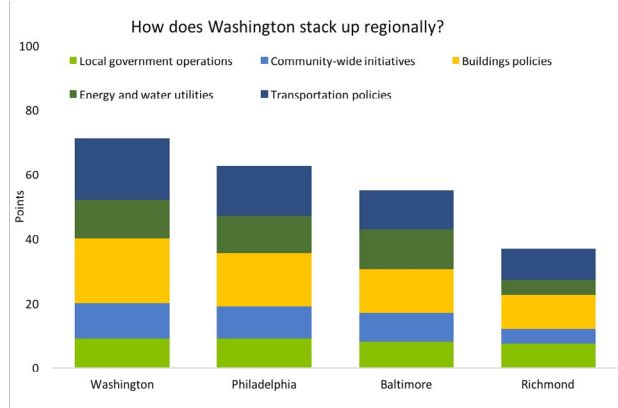
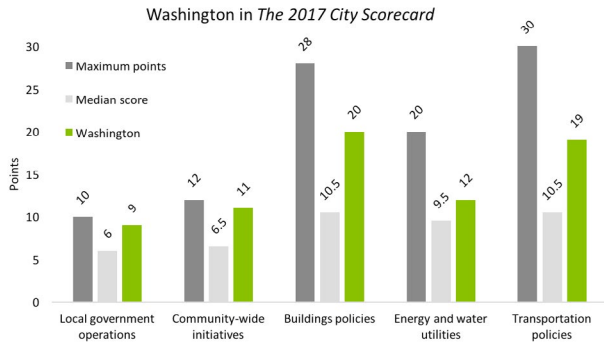


8

Washington



Washington, DC ranked eighth in the *2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, falling five spots since 2015. The district earned 71 points out of a possible 100, 5.5 points fewer than last time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (9 OF 10 POINTS)

Washington has energy savings and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for local government operations. The District annually reports on progress toward these efforts and is projected to meet its emissions reduction target. DC has taken steps to better manage energy use by benchmarking more than 80% of public buildings and beginning to retrofit and optimize operations in the most inefficient ones. The district leads by example through energy efficiency requirements for new buildings, vehicles, and equipment procurement.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (11 OF 12 POINTS)

Washington adopted community-wide goals to save energy and reduce GHG emissions as part of its Sustainable DC plan. The District has committed to reducing GHG emissions 1.6% annually through 2032, and it is on track to surpass this goal. Washington has identified three sites for potential eco-districts and is providing staff and financial resources to support their creation. The District has two goals to mitigate its urban heat island: achieve 40% tree canopy coverage of urban land and increase wetland acreage by 50%.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (20 OF 28 POINTS)

Residential and commercial construction must comply with the 2013 DC construction code, which is more stringent than the 2012 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2010. The District offers property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing for large commercial construction, rebates for residential and commercial project, and a free residential audit program. The Clean and Affordable Energy Act requires large buildings to benchmark and disclose energy use data. The District still has opportunities to encourage energy efficiency in private buildings, as it does not have audit or retrofit requirements.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (12 OF 20 POINTS)

The DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU) has moderate energy efficiency spending and savings. DCSEU's energy efficiency programs earned partial credit for electric and natural gas efficiency spending and savings. DCSEU offers multifamily and low-income efficiency programs. Washington scored well in the water efficiency category.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (19 OF 30 POINTS)

The WeMoveDC plan includes a goal to have 75% of all commute trips by non-auto modes and strategies to encourage residents to walk, bike, and use transit to reach it. Washington's clean energy plan sets targets for reducing transportation-related GHGs. The recently adopted zoning code encourages compact, mixed-use development to increase energy efficiency and significantly reduces minimum parking requirements for several areas. Washington's transit system is generally accessible throughout the metro area. The District could do more to address freight efficiency and incentivize the development of affordable housing near transit areas.

HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Washington fell a few spots in rank and lost several points, but remains a top-10 city for energy efficiency. Improvements to the *Scorecard's* methodology and a shift in policy emphasis were the main reasons for the District's drop. The city remains a leader in actions related to local government operations and community-wide initiatives and performs well in other areas. Washington could retake its position at the top of the rankings by improving its performance in transportation policies and energy and water utilities.