OVERALL SCORE
18 /100

Virginia Beach

Virginia Beach performed best in local government operations largely due to its comprehensive procurement, construction, and asset management policies, including the Green Building Criteria for New City Buildings ordinance. The city also benchmarks municipal buildings, retrofits some, and has pursued a streetlight conversion program. However Virginia Beach has substantial room to improve across the report. The city can pursue foundational clean energy policies like developing community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and renewable energy goals; supporting clean distributed energy systems; and setting mode shift targets to encourage multimodal transportation. Doing so will help the city build on policy successes captured in past scorecards and serve as stepping stones for a clean energy future in Virginia Beach.
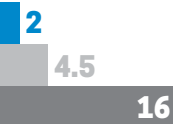

HOW DOES VIRGINIA BEACH STACK UP REGIONALLY?

- LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
- COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES
- BUILDINGS POLICIES
- ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES
- TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
4
3.5
9

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES
2
4.5
16

BUILDINGS POLICIES
5
9
30

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES
2.5
5.5
15
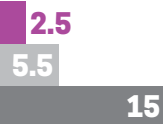
TRANSPORTATION POLICIES
4.5
8.5
30
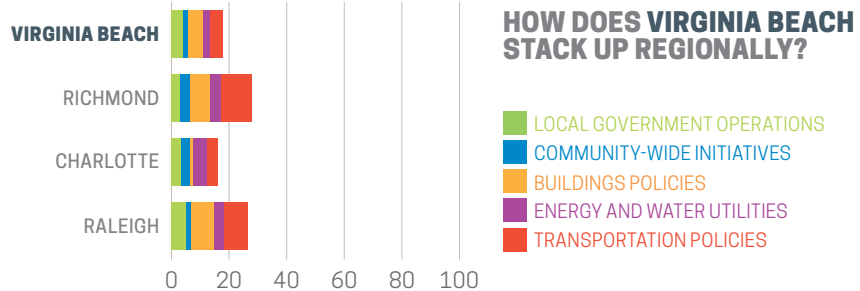
MEDIAN SCORE
MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (4 OF 9 POINTS)
Virginia Beach set green building requirements, benchmarks municipal buildings, and retrofits select buildings. The city has converted all streetlights to LEDs. Virginia Beach also offers a flexible workplace policy for city employees. The city can build on its efforts by establishing energy-reduction, renewable electricity, and GHG emissions reduction goals for local government operations.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (2 OF 16 POINTS)
Virginia Beach's energy-savings and urban heat island mitigation goals provide a vision for its energy efficiency activity. To inspire future clean energy efforts, the city can set GHG reduction and renewable energy goals. It can take steps to achieve these goals by involving marginalized communities in planning and implementing initiatives and by supporting clean, efficient distributed energy systems.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (5 OF 30 POINTS)
Virginia requires all jurisdictions to comply with the 2015 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, which references the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for commercial buildings and the 2015 International Residential Code (IRC) for residential buildings. Virginia Beach actively advocates for more stringent building energy codes through its membership in the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council. The city's Energy Efficient Buildings incentive offers residential and commercial property owners tax breaks for achieving energy savings. The state prohibits Virginia Beach from adopting benchmarking and transparency ordinances and energy action requirements, but the city can encourage improved energy efficiency in existing buildings by creating voluntary benchmarking initiatives or energy challenges. The city could also achieve energy savings in existing buildings by building an equitable clean energy workforce through training programs and inclusive procurement policies.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (2.5 OF 15 POINTS)
Virginia Beach works to increase energy efficiency in water services and wastewater treatment plants, but more could be done. Compared to other utilities, Dominion Virginia Power and Virginia Natural Gas show low savings for both electric and natural gas efficiency programs. Neither utility offers comprehensive programs for low-income or multifamily households. Dominion Virginia Power does not offer incentives for the construction of new distributed solar or wind systems.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (4.5 OF 30 POINTS)
Virginia Beach requires a form code for ocean-front neighborhoods. Otherwise the city has few sustainable transportation initiatives. To improve its standing in the next *Scorecard*, the city could develop a standalone sustainable transportation plan, enact citywide location-efficient zoning policies, and encourage energy-efficient modes of transportation.

ACEEE
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy