

UNCOVERING ENERGY INEQUITY

JULY 2020

THE LOCAL CONTEXT

Expected temperature increases caused by climate change could increase Charlottesville's average daily maximum temperature by 8°F over the next 80 years. The number of extreme heat days over 100°F is expected to increase from 5 days per year to 69 over that same time period. **Energy-burdened communities pay the biggest price in a hotter world.**

THE PROBLEM, DEFINED



Energy Equity exists when all households have equitable access to clean, affordable, and secure energy services, regardless of their demographic characteristics (such as ethnic background, income levels, geographic location, etc.).



Energy Burden is the portion of a household income spent on home-energy costs, including electricity, natural gas, propane, and other energy sources.

High Energy Burden
6% - 9.9%



Very High Energy Burden
10.0% - 19.9%



Extremely High Energy Burden
20+%

**4,852 households
pay more than 6%**

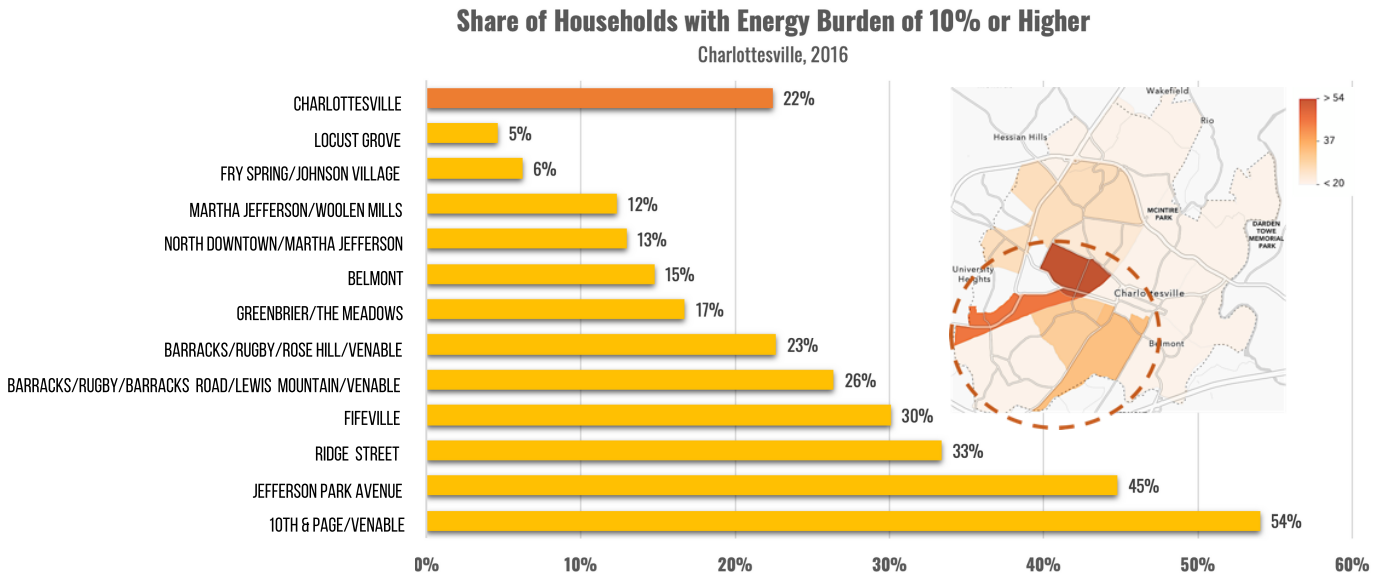
**4,031 households
pay more than 10%**

**851 households
pay more than 20%**

of their annual income on energy costs in Charlottesville.

WHERE DOES THE GREATEST ENERGY BURDEN EXIST?

The Charlottesville neighborhoods of **10th & Page/Venable**, **Jefferson Park Avenue**, **Ridge Street**, and **Fifeville** face disproportionate incidence of elevated energy burden — each with 30% or more of their populations experiencing energy burdens of 10% or higher.

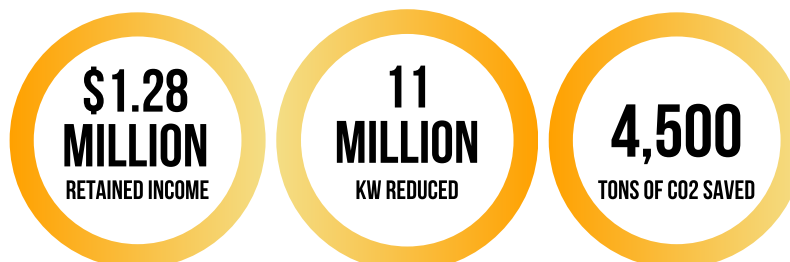


FURTHER INSIGHTS FOR CHARLOTTESVILLE

- Extremely-low income households face an **average energy burden of 16%**.
- Given a same built year, renters face energy burden levels **2x higher** than homeowners.
- There is **no clear link** between the home ages and energy burden.
- When controlling by income, homeownership **does not seem to be a driver** of energy burden.

SOLUTIONS EXIST

A targeted program to deploy energy efficiency improvements coupled with renewable energy solutions could reduce a household energy burden from 24% to 6% and **free up to 18% of that household's annual income**. Scaled up to 1,000 households:



For the full report and more on Uncovering Energy Inequity, visit theclimatecollaborative.org/uncovering-energy-inequity

