

# 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%**

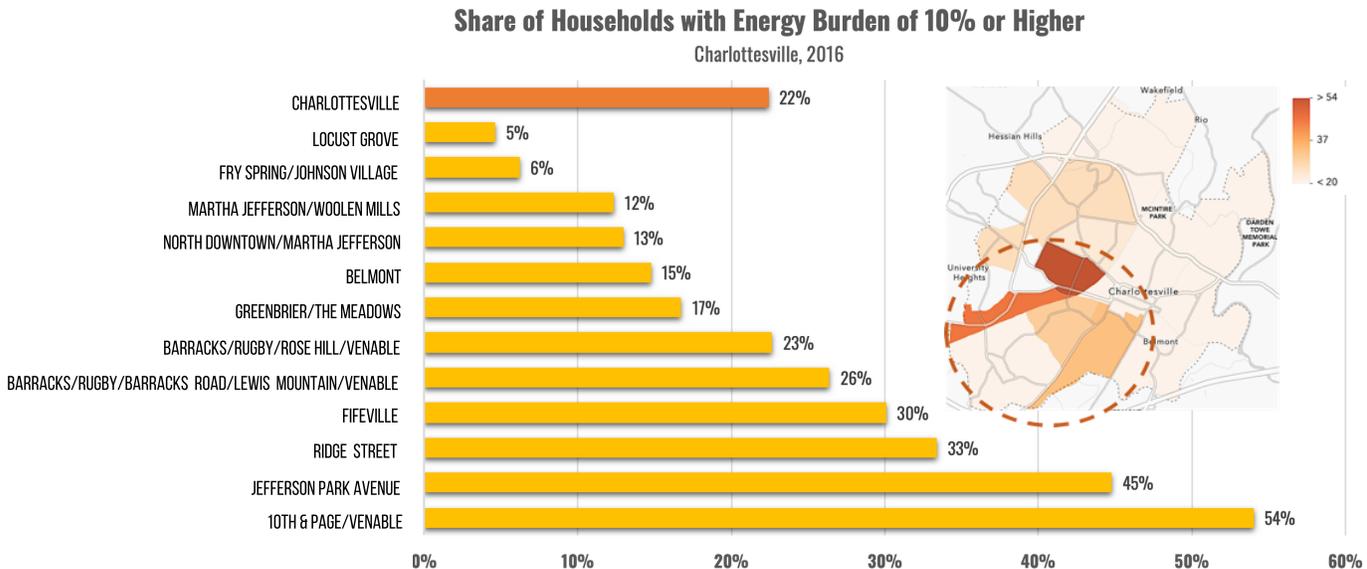
**4,031 households  
pay more than 10%**

**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.

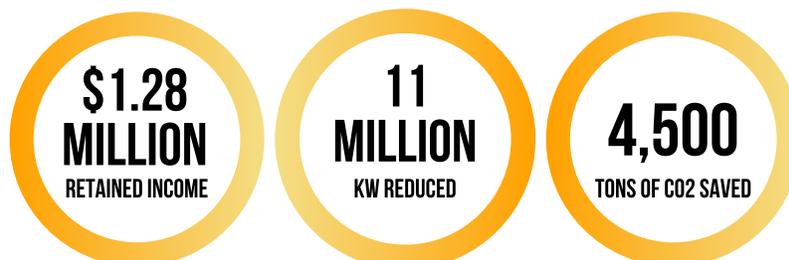


## FURTHER INSIGHTS FOR CHARLOTTESVILLE

- 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 [theclimaticollaborative.org/uncovering-energy-inequity](https://theclimaticollaborative.org/uncovering-energy-inequity)

