



NCSEA

NORTH CAROLINA SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION Education - Public Policy - Economic Development

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NC's SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMPANIES READY TO HIRE 7,500+ NEW EMPLOYEES & START NEW PROJECTS FOLLOWING FEDERAL, STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION

NCSEA conducts statewide jobs survey, which identifies potential new jobs & new projects while predicting many more with stimulus funding in the next 2 years

(RALEIGH, NC) – Discussions are underway in Washington, DC and Raleigh on possible legislative and regulatory action, which could expand North Carolina's renewable energy and energy efficiency industries and create additional "green jobs" – both short-term, "shovel-ready" jobs and long-term, permanent jobs. The \$800+ billion federal economic stimulus and recovery package, which is currently being debated by the US Congress, will directly impact the sustainable energy industries and is expected to create or protect millions of jobs nationally that cannot be outsourced, double the production of alternative energy in the next three years, modernize federal buildings, make homes and schools more energy efficient, save consumers and taxpayers billions on their energy bills, and much more.

Additionally, elected officials at the federal and state levels are considering legislative actions that will reduce or remove regulatory and market barriers in North Carolina, which will also help our sustainable energy businesses hire more employees and initiate new projects during the next two years.

In an effort to show how this legislative action may impact North Carolina and her citizens, [The North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association](http://www.energync.org) (NCSEA) surveyed renewable energy and energy efficiency companies across our state regarding their "shovel-ready" projects, which could create new "green jobs" by the end of 2010. These valuable survey results were collected during the last two weeks in an effort to educate our state's elected officials and key decision makers, who are currently taking steps to ensure North Carolina receives its fair share of federal economic stimulus funds and determining how the funds will be allocated.

NCSEA received 71 survey responses from companies across North Carolina, providing a representative sample of the approximately 500 companies currently employing people across North Carolina in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries. This small snap-shot of the entire industry produced some big answers.

NCSEA asked companies several questions in order to capture their current size (employment), as well as the market and economic barriers to expansion they're currently experiencing. Companies were also asked if the federal economic stimulus package is approved by the US Congress and/or if the NC Legislature took action to remove these barriers, how many new projects could be initiated before the end of 2010 and how many new jobs could be created.

Based on survey responses, NCSEA found that if state and federal legislative action occurs before July 2009, which includes passage of the federal economic stimulus package and removing current barriers, sustainable energy businesses across North Carolina could create over 7,500 new jobs in the next two years.

“The hundreds of firms that are North Carolina’s backbone of the emerging new energy economy have an incredible and unmatched potential to help accelerate North Carolina’s economic recovery by creating business opportunities, developing new ‘green’ workforces, and enhancing our energy security,” said Ivan Urlaub, Executive Director of The NC Sustainable Energy Association. “President Obama and our congressional leaders in Washington are on the verge of providing much-needed funding that will jump-start our economy and expand energy efficiency, solar, wind, combined heat and power, biomass and landfill gas energy technologies. North Carolina leaders also need to adopt policies that remove remaining barriers to the emerging new energy economy, in order for this federal stimulus money to create a lasting foundation upon which our industry will continue adding jobs for decades to come.”

As a result of the jobs survey, NCSEA gathered the following results based on a responding company’s current economic situation and their projected growth if federal and/or state legislative action occurs:

- The responding 71 companies currently employ approximately 750 workers (full time equivalent)
- If economic and market barriers were removed by state and/or federal legislative action, the responding companies could:
 - Create over 1,025 new jobs, which is a 137% increase
 - Initiate approximately 1,300 new projects worth \$1,256,444,600
 - Types of new projects that could be initiated before December 2010 (*in order of response rate*):
 - Energy Efficiency (*tied*)
 - Solar Photovoltaic (PV) (*tied*)
 - Solar Thermal
 - Wind
 - Other – Combined Heat & Power (CHP), Biomass and Landfill Gas Energy (LFGE)
 - 29 responding companies provided details regarding the size of their projected projects, which would total:
 - 378 MW of electric generation capacity
 - 51 MW of baseload equivalent from heat and biogas resources
 - Location of projected future projects:
 - 45% located in Piedmont/Central North Carolina
 - 32% located in Eastern/Coastal North Carolina
 - 23% located in Western North Carolina

The 71 responding companies, which are planning new projects and would hire new employees if legislative action occurs, included:

- [Southern Energy Management](#), located in Morrisville, is a leading sustainable energy company delivering energy efficiency and turn-key solar solutions to residential, commercial and industrial clients across the Southeast.
- [Sencera](#), located in Charlotte, is a developer of photovoltaic modules and thin film solar panel systems.
- [Elm Engineering](#), located in Charlotte, was one of the first companies in North Carolina to focus solely on sustainable engineering and commissioning. The company specializes in mechanical, electrical, rainwater collection, plumbing, fire protection, and telecommunication systems.
- City of Elizabeth City
- [SJF Ventures](#), located in Durham and New York, is a venture capital firm that focuses on cleantech, clean energy and positive impact companies.

(To put these findings in context, NCSEA conducted an [Industry Census](#) in the summer of 2008, which estimated that the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Industries in North Carolina consisted of over 6,470 jobs. In 2008, 166 firms responded to that Industry Census out of 486 surveyed.)

Rosalie Day, NCSEA’s Policy Director, said, “If the North Carolina General Assembly leverages federal action with policy change here at home, we will create a ‘win-win’ situation that will positively impact every North

Carolinian. Our companies in the sustainable energy industries are ready to break ground and put people back to work immediately.”

Urlaub also detailed some of the specific legislative actions that are needed in North Carolina to maximize job creation now and ensure our state and local communities are able to use the federal stimulus funds, while ensuring accountability and verifiable results:

- North Carolina should **remove the dollar value cap on energy saving performance contracts**, which is currently capped at \$100 million, so the government can immediately act to avoid spending taxpayer money on energy and water costs. **Bundled with federal stimulus opportunities, energy saving performance contracting could create more than 8,500 new jobs in North Carolina over the next four years and implement solutions that will avoid hundreds of millions in long-term government costs for energy and water use.**
- The state’s **renewable energy income tax credits** should be extended to 2016 to give banks more confidence in the industry in this tight credit market.
- North Carolina can save and create tens of thousands of jobs over the next five years through a **focused economic development policy to create renewable energy supply chain clusters for solar, wind power, biomass, geothermal and fuel cell technologies and services**. The State’s renewable energy manufacturing tax credit expired in 2006. North Carolina has over 1,000 manufacturing firms that have the right human resources and raw materials mix to transition their business models to manufacture markets for export into the world’s new energy economy. The renewable energy manufacturing tax credit should be revived, and also expanded to include retooling costs for manufacturing firms that want to save their jobs and begin growing again by transitioning their product lines to begin producing renewable energy components or finished products.
- North Carolina requires its electric utilities to use renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in order to comply with the North Carolina Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) law of 2007. Currently, **energy efficiency** implemented by companies other than the regulated electric utilities is not eligible to satisfy the REPS requirement, even though such energy efficiency measures will have the intended effect of reducing electricity demand across our State. This is because energy efficiency will have the unintended result of reducing regulated electric utility revenue and profit, because the utilities will be selling less electricity. The federal economic stimulus bill will infuse a hundred-fold increase in energy efficiency funds into the North Carolina economy, resulting in hundreds of ‘negawatts’ of energy savings that will not be reflected in the REPS compliance or the utilities’ long range plans. The Governor and General Assembly should feel compelled to find a way to **modify North Carolina’s electricity rate structure** to leverage the Federal stimulus funds in a way that will dramatically lower the cost to North Carolina ratepayers of our compliance with the REPS law and allow energy efficiency implemented by hundreds of competent firms across our state to qualify for REPS compliance in a way that does not reduce the revenues and profits of the regulated electric utilities.
- Universities, community colleges and government facilities should lead by example by leveraging federal stimulus funds to install hundreds of megawatts of renewable energy on public property. However, the lack of a **fair net metering rule** for commercial renewable energy installations has created a hurdle for project financing that government cannot overcome. North Carolina needs to immediately improve its net metering rule either by Order of the North Carolina Utilities Commission or by legislative action, so our public sector can put people to work immediately in ways that increase North Carolina government’s energy security and reduce the amount of taxpayer money spent on out of state and foreign energy resources.

About The North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association – Founded in 1978, the NC Sustainable Energy Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit membership organization of individuals and businesses working to ensure a sustainable future by promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency in North Carolina through education, public policy and economic development. Learn more at www.energync.org.