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Renewable Energy Development Key to City of Raleigh's Continued Growth, Leadership

Renewable Energy Promotion Can Increase Operational Resilience, Save Costs and Drive Economic Development, NCSEA Analysis Says

RALEIGH, N.C., June 16, 2016 – Renewable energy development is a good investment for the City of Raleigh, N.C., according to a [new analysis from the NC Sustainable Energy Association \(NCSEA\)](#), a leading 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to shaping the state's clean and efficient energy future.

In the just-released *City of Raleigh Renewable Energy Overview: Background, Assessment & Recommendations*, NCSEA provides an in-depth analysis of the City's existing and potential renewable energy capabilities as they relate to today's evolving energy landscape. The report comes at an opportune time for Raleigh, where energy costs are currently the City's second-largest operating expense.

"Raleigh is a vibrant and growing city and NCSEA was delighted to partner with the City to help guide their growth and infrastructure in the most sustainable way possible," said Robin Aldina, report author and NCSEA's manager of energy research.

While Raleigh has historically held a strong commitment to reviewing utility rates and consumption patterns in its municipal operations, the report finds that continued attention to renewable energy, current energy use, resources, and planning within the City is needed. NCSEA says the potential incorporation of renewable energy resources could improve operational resilience and provide lifetime cost savings to the City.

"This joint project between the City of Raleigh and NCSEA was a valuable opportunity to celebrate the successes, as well as evaluate opportunities for future growth in the ever-changing energy market place," said Megan Anderson, the City of Raleigh's sustainability manager.

"The City has made great strides in supporting renewable energy projects; as well as implementing projects from our Climate Energy Action Plan (CEAP). This overview was the next step from CEAP, and will be used as a tool to help guide our future planning. The overview also provides the community with a vision of where we came from and where we are going, by providing a brief synopsis of the history and development of the energy market in the U.S., and specifically relating this to North Carolina and the City of Raleigh's municipal operations."

The assessment is the result of months of qualitative and quantitative research conducted by NCSEA authors, who took a two-pronged approach to developing the report: First conducting extensive interviews with City of Raleigh personnel, and later researching energy resources management best practices present in other municipal governments.

The resulting, fully-customized analysis identifies opportunities and recommended next steps to equip the City of Raleigh for increased incorporation of renewable energy. Some of these include the need for accurate measurement of all City energy consumption, better integration around energy use and procurement, and financing strategies for future renewable energy capital investments. These and other strategies are key to



reaping available benefits of more renewable energy, including long-term operating and capital budget savings for Raleigh's citizens and taxpayers.

The [full report](#) is available on the NC Sustainable Energy Association website.

Why Sustainable City Planning?

In recent years, many cities across the state and nation have trended toward a renewed focus on sustainability. The benefits of sustainable city planning include cost savings, infrastructure improvements, economic development goals and enhanced health and lifestyle for residents. NCSEA is available to analyze and provide recommendations tailored to the unique needs of other cities in a similar, custom report. To inquire, please contact NCSEA's Strategic Director Diane Cherry, diane@energync.org.

About the NC Sustainable Energy Association

The NC Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) is a recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization dedicated to shaping North Carolina's clean energy future through commonsense policy solutions that enable clean energy jobs, business opportunities and affordable energy to strengthen the state's position as a leader in the new energy economy. Engaging its deep ties with members, government officials, North Carolina communities and industry partners, NCSEA leads policy change that motivates sustainable market development while educating North Carolinians about the impacts of abundant and accessible clean energy. NCSEA has served as a respected, trusted and collaborative resource to North Carolina and beyond, driving some of the most successful policies across all energy sectors since 1978. NCSEA is also a member of the American Solar Energy Society and the Advanced Energy Economy.

About the City of Raleigh

The City of Raleigh, founded in 1792, is the second-largest city in North Carolina and is situated in the heart of North Carolina's Piedmont region, centered between the sandy Atlantic beaches and the Great Smoky Mountains. The City is both the county seat of Wake County and the capital of North Carolina.

Raleigh covers an area of more than 144 square miles and is home to a growing and diverse population of more than 448,000 residents. Together with Chapel Hill and Durham, Raleigh forms the Research Triangle Park, which was founded in 1959 as a model for research, innovation and economic development and is now the largest research park in the nation. The metropolitan area, which encompasses Raleigh, also includes Wake, Durham, Orange, Franklin, Chatham and Johnston counties with a population of 1.6 million. Raleigh is also home to several institutions of higher learning, including North Carolina State University, Wake Technical Community College, Meredith College, William Peace University, Shaw University and St. Augustine's University. Raleigh is consistently recognized as one of the best communities to live work and play.