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Contact: Jordan Jones
jordan@energync.org
602-350-4887

NCSEA Announces 2020 Award Winners

RALEIGH, N.C., January 21, 2021 – North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association held their Annual Member Meeting on Wednesday, December 2, where they announced the 2020 award winners for performing outstanding work in the North Carolina clean energy industry. Seven winners, including both individuals and organizations, were acknowledged during the virtual award ceremony.

“We are so proud to have a diverse membership reflective of businesses and individual professionals that are doing great work here in our state. They are all truly deserving of this honor,” says Ward Lenz, Executive Director.

Pisgah Energy, *Clean Energy Business of the Year Award* — In just over a year, Evan and Rebecca have been able to utilize their many years of experience within the solar industry to build a successful Asheville-based solar design and development firm that has already received the contract to design all of the rooftop systems associated with the most recent Asheville/Buncombe County solar RFP. On top of that, Evan and Rebecca are both wonderful ambassadors of the solar community and very involved in the ecosystem of organizations supporting clean energy across the state.

Leyline Renewable Capital, *Clean Energy Innovator of the Year Award* — Leyline Renewable Capital (LRC) provides seed capital for promising renewable energy projects in North Carolina and across the nation, across five verticals: solar, wind, anaerobic digestion, landfill gas, and battery storage. LRC fills a critical need by equipping renewable energy developers with flexible financing solutions when their access to capital is often limited. Tackling the challenges of these early stages—including engineering work, impact studies, interconnection deals, and land acquisition—is critical for the success of any renewable energy project. LRC also offers guidance based on decades of combined development experience and generate creative solutions that account for the unique circumstances of each project.

Jones County New K-12 School, *Clean Energy Project of the Year Award* — As one of the most innovative schools in the country, the Jones County New K-12 School is designed to generate approximately 175% more energy than it uses. To achieve this energy-positive design, the building incorporates high-performance design features that work synergistically to produce more energy than the building consumes. This energy-positive design brings significant economic benefits over the lifespan of the building, saving over \$18 million in energy costs over 40 years.



Good Solar USA, Diversity and Inclusion in Clean Energy Award — Ethan and Miles have a mission of deploying community solar projects across the state of North Carolina to non-profits, municipalities, and low-income communities. While the market for community solar projects in the state has not been great over the past few years, Miles and Ethan have continued to move the conversations forward and are dedicated to working with NCSEA and other partners to identify policy or regulatory solutions that could open the market up in the state and create more paths that allow people of all backgrounds to benefit from solar.

Heather Bolick, City of Charlotte, Individual Clean Energy Leader of the Year

Award — Heather Bolick is the Energy and Sustainability Coordinator for Building Services at the City of Charlotte. Heather is the definition of a public servant and cares deeply about Charlotte’s sustainability and renewable energy goals. She led the team effort for the City of Charlotte to be the most populous city in the United States to acquire large-scale solar through a green tariff program, Duke Energy’s Green Source Advantage Program. City Council approved \$2 million for rooftop solar in fiscal year 2021 and Heather is leading a small team to design and build approximately 740 kW on city-owned rooftops, ranging from police stations to fire stations to community center buildings.

Anne Tazewell, NC Clean Energy Technology Center, Lifetime Achievement Award — Anne was the first person to pioneer clean transportation initiatives in North Carolina. In her four-year tenure at Triangle J Council of Governments, she established the Triangle Clean Cities program to earn designation into the U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities program. At TJCOG she secured regional Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding to open the first publicly accessible service stations to offer biodiesel to the motoring public. In 2006, she joined the NC Clean Energy Center (then the Solar Center) where she established the Clean Transportation program and secured statewide funding for the Clean Fuel Advanced Technology (CFAT) program. Anne has been a tireless champion of clean air and clean energy at the NCCETC for 17 years and most recently has focused on improving energy efficiency & clean energy access for low-income households.

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About North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association

North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) is the leading 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that drives public policy and market development for clean energy. Our work enables clean energy jobs, economic opportunities, and affordable energy options for North Carolinians. Learn more about NCSEA, our mission, and vision at www.energync.org.