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**Governor Cooper discusses clean energy jobs and investments, offshore wind manufacturing potential, and growing up in Eastern North Carolina on the 50<sup>th</sup> episode of the Squeaky Clean Energy Podcast**

**RALEIGH, N.C., June 10, 2021** — On the 50th episode of the [Squeaky Clean Energy Podcast](#), released today, Governor Roy Cooper joined podcast host Matt Abele to discuss his administration’s priorities for North Carolina’s clean energy economy, today and in the years to come. Cooper has made clean energy a priority issue since being elected Governor in November 2016, including issuing [Executive Order 80](#) in 2018 aimed at further expanding North Carolina’s already thriving clean energy industry, and [Executive Order 218](#), issued yesterday, which sets the state’s first-ever targets for offshore wind energy development and attracting hi-tech manufacturers involved in making components for offshore wind turbines that will be built up and down the East Coast.

In the episode, the Governor and Matt took a deep dive into the many economic benefits of clean energy in North Carolina, including the employment of over 110,000 North Carolinians in the various clean energy sectors and investments found in all regions of our state, especially rural counties. An upcoming “Economic Impact Analysis of Clean Energy In North Carolina” report by RTI International, which was commissioned by NC Sustainable Energy Association and will be released in the coming weeks, reveals that North Carolina saw nearly \$20 billion in clean energy investment between 2007 and 2020. Many eastern North Carolina counties such as Nash County, where the Governor grew up, are in the top 10 North Carolina counties that have benefited from hundreds of millions in investments from clean energy and energy efficiency projects in recent years.

Governor Cooper noted that North Carolina is already home to more than 110,000 employees working at businesses and manufacturers in all regions of the state that play an integral role in the clean energy economy. “Here in North Carolina, we can talk about the economics of clean energy, the jobs that it creates, the fact that clean energy is coming at us like an ‘electric freight train’ and we need to be ready to get on board. We have the infrastructure, we have the talent, and we have the people.” And then near the end of the interview, he concluded, “Let’s go do this thing & get our clean energy economy cranked up in North Carolina.”

In discussing his new Executive Order 218, Governor Cooper said, “If we can get eight gigawatts of offshore wind by 2040, that could power 2.3 million households and create a (manufacturing) supply chain economy that could create hundreds of thousands of jobs in North Carolina.” The Governor called on state legislators, utilities, and Utilities Commissioners to prioritize clean energy policies that ensure North Carolina keeps pace with the rapid increase in customer demand, declining costs, and technological advancements the clean energy industry is creating.



“North Carolina’s clean energy economy has seen significant growth over the last several years with the help of supportive policy makers and leaders such as Governor Cooper and numerous legislators, Democrats and Republicans in both Chambers,” said Ward Lenz, Executive Director of North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA). “We are eager to continue working with businesses, communities, and state, local and federal elected officials to ensure that all North Carolinians have access to affordable, reliable, and clean energy. We thank the Governor for his commitment to our state, and for helping us celebrate our podcast’s special 50th episode milestone.”

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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](http://www.energync.org).

### **About the Squeaky Clean Energy Podcast**

The Squeaky Clean Energy Podcast is a fresh take on the evolving clean energy policy landscape. The podcast has received close to 25,000 nationwide and international plays since its inception and has featured guests, such as NC Governor Roy Cooper, former NC Department of Environment Quality Secretary and now EPA Administrator Michael Regan, NBA All-Star David West, Leah Stokes, Katherine Hamilton from the Energy Gang, and numerous other well-known clean energy influencers. Our audience spans across the southeast and the country and is comprised of legislators, regulators, businesses, municipalities, universities, and non-profits. Learn more and listen at [www.energync.org/thesqueakycleanenergypodcast](http://www.energync.org/thesqueakycleanenergypodcast).