

**Who:** We welcome all professional women working in the clean energy industry of North Carolina. WICE participants are of all ages and come from racially diverse backgrounds. We also support women in clean energy at every level, whether they are early career clean energy professionals or seasoned industry experts. Many WICE participants are NCSEA members, donors, or sponsors but membership is not required to join.

What: The Women in Clean Energy initiative launched in 2018 and was made possible through the support of NCSEA member Maria Kingery. WICE's primary goal is to foster a community of support, solidarity, and camaraderie for self-identifying North Carolinian professional women in the clean energy industry. For the first year, seven networking and social events were held to bring women together from all regions of the state. WICE also implemented a highly impactful mentoring program which allowed over 100 women to build professional and personal relationships with their fellow clean energy colleagues.

**Where:** Tapping into every region of the state is a very important part of the WICE initiative. We've held social and networking events across North Carolina and look forward to hosting events in other locations to reach clean energy women from all geographic regions.

Why: With the clean energy industry being dominated mostly by men, it is important for women, particularly those in North Carolina, to have a space that can help advance their professional goals and also provides support and community. Initiatives like WICE are integral to providing women in male dominated industries a seat at the table. By amplifying their voices, women in the clean energy sector are able to navigate and impact areas of leadership, policy, and economic opportunity. It is also an avenue to bring like-minded women together so that they are able to share their interests, challenges, and provide each other with the resources or connections that can help advance their careers.

NCSEA is committed to advancing the state of clean energy through diversity and inclusion in order to reflect the world in which we all live. The Women in Clean Energy initiative has proven to be successful in its efforts to bring North Carolina women in the clean energy profession together and is a great start to advancing gender equality in an industry that has historically been male dominated. We encourage our male allies to share the good news of WICE with their colleagues and peers, and invite women from all walks of life to become a part of a movement that is devoted to supporting their work. It is our mission to have a future of clean energy that is inclusive, diverse, and gender-balanced.

To learn more about WICE, e-mail wice@energync.org.