

2022 Legislative Priorities

While 2021's HB951 made major changes to North Carolina's energy regulations, there is still plenty to be done to support sustainable energy and its rapid growth in the state during the 2022 short session by driving further policy that will create clean energy jobs, economic opportunities, and affordable energy that benefits all North Carolinians. In 2020 clean energy accounted for 76,731 jobs for North Carolinians even in the midst of COVID. Before COVID the clean energy sector has grown on average by over 1500 jobs (1.75%) per year since 2016 and the below legislation could increase those numbers as well as other job opportunities that stem from energy development.

Competition

Market Competition Study | Pass House Bill 611 to examine the costs and benefits of opening North Carolina's current monopoly electricity market to competition on various levels.

Market Access

Remove Rooftop Solar Leasing Cap | Remove HB589's cap on rooftop solar leasing to encourage more solar companies to enter North Carolina's electricity market.

Prohibit Duplicative Energy Fees | Prohibit standby charges for net energy metering customers that already pay demand charges by adopting Section 7.(f) of Edition 2 of House Bill 951.

Allow Direct-to-Consumer Vehicle Sales | 2019's HB329 (S.L. 2019-132) created new market opportunities by allowing the resale of electricity for EV charging. Build on HB329, and authorize new business models for selling vehicles, by expanding the availability of direct-to-consumer vehicle sales.

Nonprofit Rooftop Solar Rebates | Amend the HB589 rooftop solar rebate program so that any rebates available to nonprofit customers that are not used will continue to be reserved for the nonprofit customer class instead of being taken by residential and commercial customers.

Land Use/Property Rights

Rooftop Solar HOAs | Pass [House Bill 842, Clarify Deed Restrictions/Solar Collectors](#), to clarify policy around homeowner association covenants to protect property rights and allow homeowners to install rooftop solar energy systems on their homes.

Land Use | Maintain uniform policies for permitting, management, and decommissioning of utility-scale renewable energy projects to reduce inefficient variances among local ordinances and streamline development of essential energy infrastructure.

Generate Ratepayer Savings

Make Coal Securitization Mandatory | 2021's House Bill 951 is inconsistent about whether securitization of retiring coal assets is mandatory.

Expand Definition of Energy Efficiency | Clarify the current definition of energy efficiency to include behind-the-meter generation by adopting [Section 7.\(e\) of Edition 2 of House Bill 951](#).

State Government Energy Efficiency | Pass [House Bill 245, Efficient Government Buildings and Savings Act](#), to require reductions in state building energy and water consumption to save taxpayer dollars.

PACE Financing | Pass [Senate Bill 358, C-PACE Program](#), to authorize the financing of certain improvements, such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, and hurricane resilience, and COVID-19 protections, via a property owner's taxes.

State Funding

Ensure IJA Funds are Utilized | Create an Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Reserve Fund to increase access to IJA competitive grants for North Carolina's local governments, state agencies, and other stakeholder organizations.

Fund University Energy Centers | Support the \$400,000 appropriation request from the North Carolina State University Clean Energy Technology Center as well as requests from the Center for Energy Research and Technology (CERT) at North Carolina A&T State University and the Appalachian Energy Center at Appalachian State University.

Expand and Recruit Offshore Wind Manufacturing | Create a \$20 million (nonrecurring) Infrastructure Reserve Fund for Roanoke Island to help the North Carolina State Ports Authority and the Departments of Commerce and Transportation to attract new business tenants to the island. Create 1 FTE at the Economic Development Partnership of NC (EDPNC) with prior experience in the offshore wind industry to recruit offshore wind developers and supply chain manufacturers and solution providers to North Carolina.