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NC Solar Development Generates Significant Property Tax Revenue for Rural Counties, Report Shows

Study shows average property tax revenue increase of 1682% across the 77 counties included in report.

RALEIGH, N.C. – Today, the NC Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) released the 2022 update to the ‘Increased North Carolina County Tax Revenue from Solar Development’ report, which tracks increases in property tax revenue as a result of solar development found in 77 counties across the Tar Heel state. Since 2007, NCSEA has actively tracked all proposed and installed solar projects in NC via its [Renewable Energy Database](#). In 2017, the organization began comparing property taxes paid on parcels of land before and after solar was installed via county tax offices in order to understand the positive economic impact that solar brings to rural, suburban and urban counties across North Carolina.

The 2022 update to this report found, on average, counties experienced a 1682% increase in property tax revenues after utility-scale solar PV systems were built. The counties experiencing the largest property tax revenue increases include:

1. Bladen County - \$488,551 or 1554% increase
2. Edgecombe County - \$86,052 or 409% increase
3. Northampton County - \$257,937 or 1418% increase
4. Halifax County - \$385,793 or 1345% increase
5. Roberson County - \$605,306 or 1876% increase
6. Nash County - \$383,017 or 2589% increase
7. Duplin County - \$349,742 or 1122% increase
8. Hertford County - \$260,162 or 1313% increase
9. Catawba County - \$450,531 or 2326% increase
10. Currituck County - \$426,105 or 3327% increase

The property tax revenue generated via solar installations across the state is a significant economic boost for counties, helping to support municipal and county services like schools, roads, and first responders. Aside from the direct tax revenue, the solar industry also employs nearly 7,000 North Carolinians and has made more than \$15 billion in investments across the state, most of which are located in rural, economically challenged counties.

“I’ve seen firsthand the economic benefits of solar projects in and around Harnett County,” said Harnett County Commissioner Brooks Matthews. “In addition to producing ‘home-grown’ energy, solar projects generate reliable revenue for farmers who lease their land for solar. They’re a much-needed property tax generating asset for our local governments and help pay for the services that our citizens need. Solar projects have been vitally important to rural communities across North Carolina over the last decade.”

“The results of NCSEA’s property tax revenue study continues to prove that solar is a vital economic engine for rural communities across the state of North Carolina,” according to Ward Lenz, Executive Director of NC Sustainable Energy Association. “Given the momentum the industry is currently experiencing, along with potential opportunities arising out of the carbon plan proceedings, we fully anticipate that these investments and resulting property tax revenues will only continue to increase and provide a much-needed boost to our rural counties.”

The full ‘Increased North Carolina County Tax Revenue from Solar Development – 2022 Update’ report can be found on NCSEA’s website here: <https://bit.ly/22PropertyTax>

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About North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association

NC 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.