

# **2023 Legislative Priorities**

# NC SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION

## **MARKET COMPETITION**

**Market Competition Study** | Examine the costs and benefits of modernizing North Carolina's current monopoly electricity market to allow increased market competition and ratepayer savings.

#### **MARKET ACCESS**

**Remove Rooftop Solar Leasing Cap |** Remove the House Bill 589 (2017) - imposed cap on rooftop solar leasing to encourage more solar companies to enter North Carolina's market and increase choices for customers.

**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 (2021).

**Remove Net Energy Metering Cap** | Remove the net energy metering cap of 1 megawatt. This will put more power in the hands of consumers as well as assisting with strain on the grid.

**Freedom to Buy Vehicle Sales** | House Bill 329 (2019) created new market opportunities by allowing the resale of electricity for EV charging. Building upon House Bill 329, authorize new business models for selling vehicles by expanding the availability of direct-to-consumer vehicle sales. With the multi-billion-dollar EV manufacturing investments being made by businesses across the state, we believe there is no better time for the legislature to take action to support these businesses and consumers.

**Community Solar** | Repeal and replace the existing, unsuccessful House Bill 589 (2017) community solar program with a better program modeled after successful community solar programs in states such as Florida or Virginia.

# **PROPERTY RIGHTS/LAND USE**

**Rooftop Solar & HOAs** | 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 rules 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** | House Bill 951 (2021) is inconsistent about whether securitization of retiring coal assets, which saves money for ratepayers, 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 (2021).

**State Government Energy Efficiency |** Reduce energy and water consumption in state buildings to save taxpayer dollars.

**C-PACE Financing** | Authorize the financing and repayment of certain commercial building improvements that will promote economic development, reduce utility bills, and harden buildings against storm and flood damage via a property owner's taxes.

#### **STATE FUNDING**

**Ensure IRA Funds are Utilized |** The Inflation Reduction Act should be used as a key resource when looking at projects across the state. Competitive IRA grants for North Carolina's local governments, state agencies, and other organizations, could maximize benefits to North Carolinians. Continue to allocate the funds from the IIJA reserve fund to ensure these benefits are seen across the state.

**Expand and Recruit Offshore Wind Manufacturing** | Establish a Radio Island Infrastructure Reserve from funds available in the General Fund the sum of fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) in non-recurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. These funds will be directed towards expenditures associated with Radio Island infrastructure upgrades intended to establish North Carolina's offshore wind supply chain.

For more information, contact Michael Fairrington, NCSEA's Government Affairs Manager, at <a href="michael@energync.org">michael@energync.org</a>.