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Contact: Destiny Johnson, Marketing Specialist
destiny@energync.org | 720-934-9685

NC Sustainable Energy Association Names Matt Abele Interim Executive Director

Matt Abele to Succeed Ward Lenz as Interim Executive Director of 45-Year-Old Clean Energy Policy and Regulatory Non-Profit

RALEIGH, N.C. – The NC Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) announced today that Matt Abele will be named Interim Executive Director, set to succeed Ward Lenz, whose tenure included three years as Executive Director and seven years total at the organization.

Abele currently serves as Director of Marketing and Communications and has collectively been at NCSEA for four years in a variety of roles encompassing events, membership, strategy, and marketing. Abele has also hosted and produced the Squeaky Clean Energy Podcast for nearly three years, amassing an audience of listeners throughout the country, driving attention to North Carolina clean energy related issues.

Prior to his work with NCSEA, Abele had developed a strong track record of non-profit and for-profit clean energy experience, having supported national and local groups, including the NC Clean Energy Technology Center, the Research Triangle Cleantech Cluster, and the National Parks Conservation Association. In each of these roles, Abele has helped to serve as a strategic partner, collaborating on successful policy and communication strategies to advance clean energy market opportunities.

“I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to help lead an organization with such a rich history of success in creating market opportunities for clean energy development, evidenced by the billions of dollars of investments and thousands of jobs located here in North Carolina,” said Matt Abele. “I’m looking forward to working with NCSEA staff, partners, and members to continue growing the clean energy ecosystem in the state with forward-thinking, innovative policies. Furthermore, I’m incredibly grateful for Ward’s leadership of NCSEA, which helped to strongly position the state to take advantage of the significant public and private clean energy investments that are critical to accelerating the pace of decarbonization.”

Under Lenz’s tenure as Executive Director, the organization experienced record levels of growth and impact across the many venues in which NCSEA operates. This period also marked the historic passage of ‘HB951: Energy Solutions for North Carolina,’ a bipartisan piece of legislation, which created the first carbon reduction mandates in the electricity sector for any state in the southeast. Lenz’s strategic direction and leadership helped to ensure NCSEA was a party to negotiations, followed by serving as a leading voice in the creation of the Carbon Plan at the NC Utilities Commission.

“It’s been an honor and a privilege to lead the organization at this pivotal moment in history for the clean energy movement. I’ve spent three decades researching, implementing, and advocating for the solutions that are now being deployed en masse with a level of momentum that could not have been predicted even five years ago,” said Ward Lenz. “I’m incredibly optimistic about what the future holds for clean energy deployment in North Carolina and the role that NCSEA will play in helping to usher in this next wave of growth and investment.”

This transition is effective immediately with Abele assuming the role of Interim Executive Director. In addition, Ward Lenz will continue to serve as a Director Emeritus to the organization over the coming months to aid in the transition and continue to identify areas of opportunity and growth.

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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.