



NC SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY ASSOCIATION

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**Elected Leaders Recognized for Their Commitment to Expanding NC’s Clean Energy Economy**  
*Award winners demonstrate bipartisan support for clean energy in House, Senate, and Governor’s Office*

**RALEIGH, N.C.** – Today, the NC Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) announces the recipients of its annual clean energy leadership awards. Awardees were selected based on their years of commitment to expanding economic opportunities through clean energy for all North Carolinians. The efforts of these elected leaders have helped build more than \$31 billion in direct investments and more than 105,000 clean energy jobs in North Carolina. These milestones have been achieved through common-sense policies that value energy reliability and affordability for businesses and residential ratepayers alike.

“It is no accident that North Carolina has grown to become a national leader in clean energy deployment and investment. These achievements have been forged through the vision and hard work of many of the elected officials we’re recognizing with these awards today,” said Matt Abele, Executive Director at the NC Sustainable Energy Association. “As we look ahead, North Carolina has the opportunity to double down on our success by protecting many of the policies that jettisoned us into this leadership position, while advancing additional policies that prioritize energy affordability and the wellbeing of our residents.”

Recipients of the 2024 NC Sustainable Energy Association Clean Energy Awards include:

**Governor Roy Cooper**, winner of the *Clean Energy Leadership Award*: Throughout Gov. Roy Cooper's two terms, he has cemented his legacy as a champion of clean energy and the significant economic benefits it brings to North Carolina, building the foundation for extraordinary growth in the clean energy sector. From Executive Order No. 80, which kicked off the clean energy plan and mapped out an outline for House Bill 951, to other executive orders establishing targets for offshore wind and electric vehicle deployment, to appointing positions across his cabinet agencies to focus on clean energy, Gov. Cooper has built a robust framework for clean energy to thrive for years to come across North Carolina.

**Representative Erin Paré**, winner of the *Representative of the Year Award*: Rep. Paré (R – Wake) has stood strong on clean energy issues, including working to increase accessibility through championing a bill that would increase the lease cap on solar, which would unlock the



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benefits of solar energy leasing for many more homeowners and organizations across the state, as well as net metering. She has continued to show support in the caucus for expanding rooftop solar opportunities and often discusses the need for increased urban and suburban access to clean energy solutions. Rep. Paré has consistently demonstrated that she's a strong advocate of policies designed to lower bills for ratepayers across North Carolina.

**Senator Michael Lee**, winner of the *Senator of the Year Award*: Sen. Lee (R – New Hanover) led the multiyear effort to pass Commercial Property Assessed Capital Expenditure (C-PACE) in North Carolina, which led to Senate Bill 802 being passed in 2024. Through the authorization of C-PACE, commercial property owners will have the opportunity to access low-cost, long-term financing for qualifying energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy, and resiliency improvements to their properties.

**Senator Mike Woodard**, winner of the *Clean Energy Legacy Award*: Sen. Woodard (D – Durham) has consistently supported clean energy and energy efficiency throughout his six terms in the Senate. He played an important role in helping to negotiate House Bill 951 “Energy Solutions for North Carolina,” the bipartisan bill passed in 2021 that put carbon emission reduction goals in state law. Sen. Woodard is known and respected for working across the aisle to bridge differences and find solutions on complicated environmental and energy legislation.

This year's award winners will be recognized in-person at the [2024 Making Energy Work conference](#) in Raleigh. Last year's conference was attended by hundreds of clean energy influencers and leaders across the country, and featured Gov. Cooper and Dr. Holmes Hummel as keynote speakers. This year, the NC League of Conservation Voters, Duke Design Climate, NC Governor's Office, NC Business Committee for Education, and the NC Department of Commerce are hosting pre-conference workshops available to energy leaders from across the region.

NCSEA extends a congratulations and sincerest thanks to our members and the 2024 award winners.

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### **About North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association**

North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) is the leading 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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 our vision at [www.energync.org](http://www.energync.org).