

Customer Choice and Economic Development Recommendations

Focus Area	Specific Recommendation	Who will need to take action?	Additional Information	Source of Recommendation
Increase customer access to clean energy resources	End ban on third-party sales of electricity	Legislature	Allow for new renewable energy procurement options	Memo, Cities Initiative
	Achieve greater participation from smaller customers by revising Duke Energy's Green Source Advantage Program under HB589	Duke Energy, NCUC	Allow for new renewable energy procurement options by reducing cost and increasing ease of access of the Green Source Advantage program	Memo, Cities Initiative
	Expand the cap or redesign the solar rebates under HB589/allow more participation	Legislature		Memo
	Require utilities to invest in a specific amount of solar paired with storage	Legislature, NCUC		Memo
	Implement solar rebate program for co-ops/municipal utilities	Legislature		Memo
	Require utilities to offer virtual or group net metering	NCUC, Legislature, IOUs, Co-ops, Municipal providers	Provides options for renters and customers without suitable sites for solar and option to subscribe to community solar programs	Memo
	Require incorporation of value of solar when considering net metering terms	NCUC		Memo

Require utilities to provide an easy option to purchase renewable energy through electric bills	NCUC, IOUs, Co-ops, Municipal providers	Provide a voluntary option for customers to be able to purchase renewable energy through their utility to serve their power needs, via a credit/billing mechanism on their utility bill.	Memo
Restore the 35% renewable energy state tax credit	Legislature		Memo
Enact a statewide commercial PACE and Pay As You Save programs	Legislature, NCUC	NC allows PACE financing. However, the State does not have active PACE programs. Administration burden of the program at the county level is too high, and requires state-level approval.	Memo
Aggregate data access at a safe level to allow local governments to prioritize programs (e.g. assistance to low-income, high energy-burden communities)	Legislature, NCUC or utility partnership	Due to privacy concerns, NC utilities do not provide third parties with access to customer usage data aggregated at a fine level. Utilities can propose aggregation of data at a level that enables cities to prioritize programs in energy-burden communities or meet other similar needs.	Cities Initiative
Legislative action to provide market certainty for offshore wind (OSW) industry in North Carolina (developers, supply chain manufacturers, etc.)	Legislature, Governor		Other

	Assess and evaluate transmission infrastructure necessary to accommodate the electricity produced from OSW resources and wheel it to load centers in the Piedmont	IOUs, NCUC		Other
Facilitate interconnection of greater Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) and compensate them for the value added to the grid	Design tariffs that provide accurate price signals to demand-side resources about costs and value to the grid (e.g. more robust Time of Use (TOU) pricing and/or Real Time Pricing)	Legislature, NCUC	Utilities can send price signals to DER owners, which can help them maximize their return on investment. Tariffs can shift system peak which may need to be considered.	Memo
	Implement compensation tariffs for DERs such as Value of DERs tariff	Legislature, NCUC		Memo
	Improve interconnection processes	Legislature, NCUC, Utility partnership	Fast-tracking of interconnection for systems paired with energy storage, enforcement of required response time in the Interconnection Standard, interconnection standards as well as process improvements, utilities providing interconnection capacity by feeder or area so developers can target those feeders or areas	Memo
	Identify optimal locations for distributed generation based	NCUC, Utility	Can be accomplished by compiling hosting capacity maps	Cities Initiative

	on current grid infrastructure			
	Support compensation for generators or load that responds to dispatch signals or prices (e.g. storage-paired resources)	Legislature, NCUC, Utility	Bring Your Own Device program can provide compensation rate or incentive for participating. Rules for participants would need to be established (i.e., allowing utility to control the system at certain times)	Memo
	Inclusion of non-wires alternatives (NWAs) in the planning of T&D upgrades (e.g. distribution deferral through energy storage) procured typically through an RFP or a tariff designed to compensate NWA	Legislature, NCUC		Memo
	Upgrade electric grid to accommodate more DERs	Utilities	Physical or virtual changes to the distribution system that enable more variable load or greater utilization of DERs such as smart meters, improved communication infrastructure, data transparency and accessibility, voltage regulators or line and substation capacitors	Memo
Increase clean energy economic	Develop a local government supported green energy bank	Legislative action and/or partnership		Cities Initiative

development opportunities	Convene Entrepreneurship Task Force to foster innovation and commercialization of energy related businesses and technologies (include universities, investors, utilities, large energy companies, incubators, and entrepreneurs)	Governor, State Agencies, Local Governments, Businesses	1. Identify a lead organization (e.g., university) and invite members; 2. Create survey of region's energy entrepreneurship ecosystem; 3. Determine survey cost and identify funders 4. Understand region's strengths and gaps	SEIC
	Identify the region's suppliers/supply of energy workforce and employers/demand for energy workforce to calculate the region's workforce shortage/surplus and other characteristics	Governor, State Agencies, Local Government, Universities, Businesses	Offer policy recommendations regarding energy workforce need; Guide colleges/universities in academic/training offerings	SEIC
	Develop a searchable online inventory of region's energy sectors and assets	State Agencies, Universities		SEIC
	Conduct (1) an OSW supply chain assessment and (2) a ports and other transportation infrastructure assessment to identify State assets and resource gaps for OSW industry in North Carolina	Dept of Commerce, Ports Authority, Dept of Transportation, chambers of commerce, economic developers		Other

	Create and foster statewide and regional offshore wind collaborative partnerships with industry, the public, private stakeholders, and neighboring states to bring economic growth opportunity to North Carolina	OEMs, energy developers, IOUs, gov't entities, research institutions, etc.	May include: regional promotion of OSW assets for supply chain investment; developing and implementing best practices; coordinating communications; and identifying funding streams to facilitate research and other activities that enhance OSW and industry recruitment.	Other
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