



December 31, 2017

Martha Lynn Jarvis  
Chief Clerk  
North Carolina Utilities Commission  
4325 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325

RE: NCUC Docket No. E-100, Sub 90  
NC GreenPower 50/50 Hybrid Pilot Program Pilot Year 3 summary report

Dear Ms. Jarvis:

In NC GreenPower's October 20, 2017 letter to the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC), we stated that a summary report on Pilot Year 3 of the "50/50 Hybrid" pilot program would be submitted to the NCUC by year's end. This summary report is attached on the following pages.

At the July 13, 2017 NC GreenPower Board of Directors meeting, staff reviewed the activities and progress of Pilot Years 1, 2 and 3. Due to impending market changes, staff recommended and the Board approved extending the 50/50 Hybrid pilot for a fourth year to gather more data and analyze the impact of the new Solar Schools initiative. This request was made to the NCUC in the same letter referenced above; the NCUC approved the request for Pilot Year 4 in its order dated December 19, 2017. A final summary report for Pilot Year 4 will be provided to the NCUC at the conclusion of the pilot in December 2018.

NC GreenPower appreciates the support and feedback from the NCUC, its staff and the Public Staff as we learn, improve and finalize our program plans.

Sincerely,

Victoria McCann  
Vice President

cc: NCUC Commissioners  
Sam Watson  
Kim Duffley

## Summary Report for NC GreenPower's "50/50 Hybrid" Pilot Year 3

NC GreenPower's current 50/50 Hybrid pilot program was introduced in April 2015. This pilot was a combination of the original Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) program launched in 2003 and a new initiative to support the installation of demonstration size solar PV systems at NC K-12 schools. For every \$4 donation received for the Mass Market REC product, 50% was used to support REC generators across the state; the other 50% was used to support the new Solar Schools pilot. Funds collected for the Solar Schools pilot were used as partial matching grants to supplement fundraising efforts by selected schools.

Through NC GreenPower's partnership with the State Employees Credit Union (SECU) Foundation, schools meeting SECU Foundation requirements also received a \$10,000 Matching Challenge Grant when the school successfully raised funds to pay for the balance of the system costs. In addition to the SECU Foundation's generous support, NC GreenPower assisted the schools' fundraising efforts with marketing, social media mentions and support from other donors.

The following 14 schools were awarded grants during the first three years of the Solar Schools pilot program:

- 2015
  - C. E. Jordan High School (Durham County)
  - East Columbus High School (Columbus County)
  - Meadowview Magnet Middle School (Surry County)
  - New Bern High School (Craven County)
  
- 2016
  - Carolina International School (Cabarrus County)
  - Central Park School for Children (Durham County)
  - Mt. Pleasant High School: Academy of Energy and Sustainability (Cabarrus County)
  - NC School of Science and Mathematics (Durham County)
  - Queens Creek Elementary School (Onslow County)
  
- 2017
  - Alleghany High School (Alleghany County)
  - Cove Creek Elementary School (Watauga County)
  - Helena Elementary School (Person County)
  - Lake Lure Classical Academy (Rutherford County)
  - Richmond Early College High School (Richmond County)

While there is preference to assist schools located in Tier 1 counties (defined by NC Department of Commerce as counties in most economic distress), schools were not selected solely on this distinction but were evaluated on a slate of qualifying factors. In the first three years of the Solar Schools pilot, schools were chosen from across all three Tier levels:

- Tier 1 counties: five schools
- Tier 2 counties: three schools
- Tier 3 counties: six schools

With the exception of five schools that already had funding available, nine schools needed to fundraise and all were successful in reaching their goals and obtained the SECU Foundation grant.

The original intent was to close the 50/50 Hybrid pilot program at the end of 2017 and launch a permanent program in 2018. Due to impending changes in the market, the NC GreenPower Board of Directors voted to extend the pilot for an additional year (through December 31, 2018) to continue gathering data on program impact and ways to improve the initiative. This extension request was granted by the NCUC on December 19, 2017.