



December 29, 2016

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

Dear Ms. Jarvis:

In NC GreenPower's April 28, 2016 letter to the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC), we stated that a summary report on Pilot Year 2 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 November 17, 2016 NC GreenPower Board of Directors meeting, staff reviewed the activities and progress of Pilot Years 1 and 2. Staff recommended and the Board approved extending the 50/50 Hybrid pilot for a third year to enable staff to gather data and analyze the impact of the new Solar Schools initiative. This recommended Pilot Year 3 would end on December 31, 2017 and a final summary report would be provided to the NCUC in December 2017.

NC GreenPower respectfully requests and appreciates the NCUC's consideration to extend the 50/50 Hybrid pilot as described.

Sincerely,

Victoria McCann
Vice President

cc: NCUC Commissioners
Sam Watson
Kim Duffley

Summary Report for NC GreenPower's "50/50 Hybrid" Pilot Year 2

NC GreenPower's current 50/50 Hybrid pilot program was launched in April 2015. This pilot was a combination of the Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) program that had operated since 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.

In 2015, the first year of the 50/50 Hybrid pilot, four schools were selected:

- C. E. Jordan High School (Durham County)
- East Columbus High School (Columbus County)
- Meadowview Magnet Middle School (Surry County) and
- New Bern High School (Craven County)

All four schools were successful in fundraising their portion and thus, qualified for a \$10,000 Matching Challenge Grant from NC GreenPower's partnership with the State Employees Credit Union (SECU) Foundation. All four solar arrays have been installed but three fell well behind schedule and were only recently completed in Q3 2016 due to construction issues. Because of these delays, NC GreenPower did not have images, testimonials and other marketing materials to promote the new pilot and test the potential of this Solar Schools initiative. Without being able to create new collateral, update the website with photos or send out social media messaging, the impact of the new Solar Schools pilot could not be measured. As a result, NC GreenPower's Board of Directors voted to extend the 50/50 Hybrid pilot into 2017, enabling staff to market the program and collect data on impacts to donation levels. NC GreenPower is requesting approval from the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) for this extension.

In 2016, the second year of the 50/50 Hybrid pilot, five additional schools were selected:

- 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)

Four of the schools needed to fundraise, were successful in reaching their goals and obtained the SECU Foundation grant; one school did not need to fundraise as they already had funding but were eligible and received the SECU Foundation grant. The five schools from Pilot Year 2 will begin construction in January/February 2017.



In addition to voting to extend the pilot into a third year, the Board of Directors created a Transition Committee to study the potential future program plan for NC GreenPower once the pilot is completed at the end of 2017 (pending approval by NCUC on pilot extension).