



December 31, 2018

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 4 summary report

Dear Ms. Jarvis:

In NC GreenPower's December 31, 2017 letter to the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC), we stated that a summary report on Pilot Year 4 of the "50/50 Hybrid" Pilot program would be submitted in December 2018; the report is attached to this letter.

At the November 8, 2018 NC GreenPower Board of Directors meeting, staff reviewed the activities and progress of Pilot Years 1-4 as well as impending market changes. Based on increasing interest from North Carolina schools in our solar grant pilot, the Board approved transitioning from a pilot to a permanent program. In addition, the Board approved the termination of the Mass Market REC product; in-state Large Volume RECs and Carbon Offsets will still be offered. A revised program plan was filed with the NCUC on November 26, 2018 to launch a permanent Solar+ Schools program in the first quarter of 2019.

Prior to our filing on November 20, 2018, Duke Energy filed with the NCUC to offer Renewable Advantage, its new residential REC program. Renewable Advantage's launch was expected to be coordinated with NC GreenPower's Solar+ Schools in early 2019.

On December 12, 2018, the NCUC issued an order based on the Public Staff's request that Duke Energy's Renewable Advantage riders and proposed revisions to the NC GreenPower tariffs be suspended for up to 270 days, and to allow for comments. Because the Duke Energy filing has direct impact on our program and launch date, we will continue operating our current 50/50 Hybrid Pilot program until the NCUC provides further input on our filing.

NC GreenPower appreciates the support and feedback from the NCUC, its staff and the Public Staff as we 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 4

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 19 schools were awarded grants in the four 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)

2018

- Athens Drive Magnet High School (Wake County)
- Edgecombe Early College High School (Edgecombe County)
- Rocky Mount Preparatory School (Nash County)
- Uwharrie Charter Academy (Randolph County)
- West Wilkes High School (Wilkes 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 four years of the Solar Schools pilot, schools were chosen from across all three Tier levels:

- Tier 1 counties: six schools
- Tier 2 counties: six schools
- Tier 3 counties: seven schools

With the exception of five schools that already had funding available, 14 schools needed to fundraise and all were successful in reaching their goals and obtained the SECU Foundation grant.

In parallel with its Solar Schools initiative, NC GreenPower also administered Duke Energy Carolina's Schools Going Solar program, delivering solar packages to eight additional schools in the utility's North Carolina service territory

In evaluating the program over the past four years, staff has learned many lessons and made improvements to the Solar Schools initiative. The NC GreenPower Board of Directors is very engaged and continuously looks for opportunities to enhance the program to have greater impact for students and their communities.

On November 26, 2018, NC GreenPower filed a revised program plan with the NCUC to close the 50/50 Hybrid pilot program at the end of 2018 and launch a permanent program, Solar+ Schools, in early 2019. In addition, NC GreenPower's Mass Market REC product would be terminated. This proposal was expected to work in conjunction with Duke Energy's filing to launch their Renewable Advantage residential REC program for which the NCUC has ordered a suspension of up to 270 days, allowing for additional comments.

We are proud to say that in all, NC GreenPower has helped 27 schools in 22 counties receive these educational systems that have positively impacted nearly 23,000 students. As NC GreenPower awaits input from the NCUC on its proposed revised program, the 50/50 Hybrid Pilot program will continue operating into 2019 and we look forward to reaching more schools in the future.