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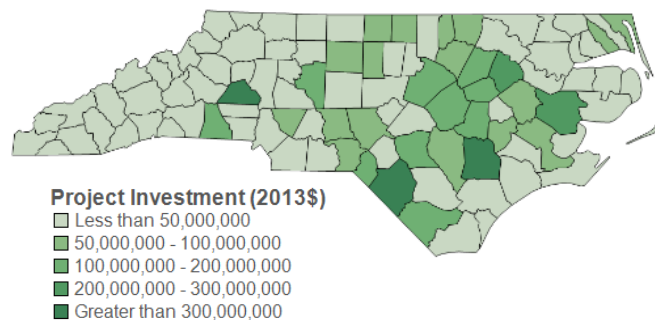
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\$6.3 Billion in Clean Energy Investments Spurring Local Economies throughout North Carolina

2016 RTI International report confirms clean energy investments doubled over past two years; rural communities benefiting most

RALEIGH, N.C., April 19, 2016 – Clean energy, which includes renewable energy and energy efficiency, is a good investment for the state of North Carolina with \$1.64 in revenues returned to state and local governments for every \$1 of state incentive claimed, a report released today from RTI International confirms.

The 2016 update to [Economic Impact Analysis of Clean Energy Development in North Carolina](#), commissioned by the NC Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA), presents aggregated economic statistics for renewable energy and energy efficiency investments in the state. The latest report shows that between 2007 and 2015, North Carolina saw a total economic impact of \$12



billion generated from \$6.3 billion in clean energy investments. Notably, these investments were nearly 20 times larger than the state incentives for them.

**Major Investment in Renewable Energy
across North Carolina Counties**

Rural communities across North Carolina are benefiting the most from clean energy development, which has been encouraged by innovative energy policies. Robeson, Duplin, Catawba, Edgecombe, and Beaufort counties in particular experienced the greatest amount of investment—each with more than \$200 million between 2007 and 2015.



North Carolina was recently [ranked third in the nation](#) for installed solar capacity, and the RTI report found that 87% of all solar photovoltaic (PV) projects valued at >\$1 million occurred in the state's rural, Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties. "This is truly an economic development success story for the most rural parts of our state," said NCSEA's director of government affairs, Maggie Clark. "Clean energy at the local level feeds the present and long-term health of North Carolina's economy."

Despite policy uncertainties in the North Carolina legislature, demand for North Carolina's clean energy products and services continues to grow: The report found



that investment in renewable energy more than doubled from 2014 to 2015.

The report also affirms that statewide renewable energy projects are attracting and supporting local investments. “Homegrown clean energy projects mean more jobs and revenues stay in North Carolina – and less money flows to out-of-state companies,” says NCSEA’s communications manager Allison Eckley, who notes that renewable energy project investment in 2015 was \$1.97 billion, up from \$948 million invested in 2014, according to the report.

With respect to some local communities’ concerns with renewable energy projects affecting their agricultural heritage, Eckley notes, “Many farmers and land owners are able to keep their properties farmable, by leasing a portion for a renewable energy project. By putting a portion of land into solar in return for a steady stream of income, farmers across the state are able to keep their land in the family for future generations – and increase the tax base of the local community in the process.”

“Clean energy lessens the financial and environmental burdens future generations inherit from traditional energy sources, and as we have seen, it can only benefit and enhance communities across the state,” says Clark. “It is a common-sense investment for any state, and we are proud that North Carolina is ahead of the curve.”

The 2016 [full report](#), including [summary findings](#) and a complete appendix detailing activity of all 100 counties, is available on the NC Sustainable Energy Association website. Follow Twitter activity around the report at #CEgrowsNC.

About RTI International

RTI International is one of the world’s leading independent nonprofit research institutes. Based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, RTI has a mission to improve the human condition by turning knowledge into practice. Founded in 1958 with the guidance of government, education, and business leaders in North Carolina, RTI was the first tenant of Research Triangle Park. Today we have nine offices in the United States and nine in international locations. We employ over 2,300 staff in North Carolina, 500 across the United States, and over 900 worldwide. RTI performs independent and objective analysis for governments and businesses in more than 75 countries in the areas of energy and the environment, health and pharmaceuticals, education and training, surveys and statistics, advanced technology, international development, economic and social policy, and laboratory testing and chemical analysis. In 2015, RTI’s revenue was \$831.5 million.

About the NC Sustainable Energy Association

The NC Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) is a recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization dedicated to shaping North Carolina’s clean energy future through commonsense policy solutions that enable clean energy jobs, business opportunities and affordable energy to strengthen the state’s position as a leader in the new energy economy. Engaging its deep ties with members, government officials, North Carolina communities and industry partners, NCSEA leads policy change that motivates sustainable market development while educating North Carolinians about the impacts of abundant and accessible clean energy. NCSEA has served as a respected, trusted and collaborative resource to North Carolina and beyond, driving some of the most successful policies across all energy sectors since 1978. NCSEA is also a member of the American Solar Energy Society and the Advanced Energy Economy.