



2017 Clean Energy Finance Conference

November 15, 2017* 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | The Hope Valley Country Club, Durham, NC

Conference Goal: Clean Energy Finance 2017 is your go to conference for gaining timely, priority insights into how the policy, finance and market are changing with the detail you need to make well-timed decisions and connections for successful deal-making. North Carolina clean energy finance is undergoing significant and complex changes. Federal laws and regulations are being revisited for the first time in decades and North Carolina has recently revised a host of clean energy policies as well as created additional financing mechanisms. Over the next 6-24 months, regulatory rules will be established for emerging technologies to do business in North Carolina. This conference intends to explore the effect of these changes as well as provide outlook for the future of financing clean energy projects in North Carolina, which will continue to serve as a precedent for the Southeast region.

7:45 – 8:30 A.M.

Coffee & Networking

8:30 – 8:40 A.M.

Welcome & Overview of the Conference

Diane Cherry, Strategic Director, NC Sustainable Energy Association

- Goals of the Workshop
- Agenda Overview

8:40 – 9:10 A.M.

Keynote: Clean Energy Emerging Technology & Finance Trends

Tyler Norris, Manager, Policy & Market Development, Cypress Creek Renewables & Former Director, Clean Energy Practice, S&P Global

This session will provide an overview of key trends in renewable energy finance. How are specialized funds and institutional investors financing clean energy in today's political and economic climate?

9:10 – 9:40 A.M.

The Market Outlook for North Carolina's Future

Michael Walden, William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor, Agriculture & Resource Economics, NC State University

National economic growth has accelerated in 2017 from Federal stimulus and lower taxes. With this as a backdrop, what is North Carolina's future projected growth? What are the challenges in meeting the state's increased population and larger economy? How does this factor into the energy market? Will emerging clean technologies see higher rates and expanded economic growth or will a recession loom in the future dampening these trends?

9:40 – 10:30 A.M.

Utility Investments & Rate Projections

Moderated by: **Paul Quinlan**, Clean Technology Manager, Scott Madden

Bob Hinton, Director, Economic Research Division, NC Utilities Commission Public Staff

Kevin O'Donnell, Energy Consultant, Carolina Utility Customer Association

Energy rates are expected to go up, making clean energy options even more affordable than they ever have been. Duke Energy Progress is proposing a 14.9% increase in its rates that would raise approximately \$477 million in new revenue. In addition, Duke Energy has announced a program called Power Forward Carolinas, a \$13 billion and 10-year project to modernize the state's electric system against storms, outages, cyber-attacks and threats. What are the impacts of both of these initiatives on future rates and what will that mean for clean energy choices?



10:30 – 10:40 A.M.

Break

10:40 – 11:40 A.M.

Energy Storage – The Next Disruptive Technology In the Power Sector

*Moderated by: **Diane Cherry***

Sam Kliewer, Market Analyst, Cypress Creek Renewables

Rebecca Rogers Chilton, Renewable Energy, Live Oak Bank

Brad Ives, Executive Director, UNC Policy Collaboratory

This session will explore the energy storage market, which is expected to explode to an annual installation size of 6 gigawatts (GW) in 2017 and over 40 GW by 2022. How can NC ensure its finance and development here? Learn from industry developers, the financial community and the UNC Policy Collaboratory, which is overseeing NC's energy storage study. The session will also review NCSEA's working group discussions and early work on developing an energy storage proforma.

11:40 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Financing Electric Vehicle Infrastructure in North Carolina

*Moderated by: **Ward Lenz**, Development Director, NC Sustainable Energy Association*

Sheila Holman, Assistant Secretary for the Environment, NC Department of Environmental Quality

Ben Prochazka, Vice-President, Electrification Coalition

Lang Reynolds, Electric Transportation Manager, Duke Energy

EVs represent a relatively new technology that may have difficulty gaining market share in an industry dominated by an older technology, especially without expansion of charging infrastructure. This session will discuss the VW settlement funding, the utility role and other programs that facilitate improved infrastructure.

12:30 – 1:30 P.M.

Lunch & Keynote – Applying Murphy's Law to PV O&M

Dave Scoglio, Chief Financial Officer & **Mike Loeser**, Director of Operations, **Strata Solar**

1:30 – 2:30 P.M.

Biogas Market in North Carolina: Overcoming Obstacles with Project Finance?

*Moderated by: **Diane Cherry***

Gus Simmons, Director of Bioenergy, Cavanaugh Associates

Greg Montgomery, Managing Director, Abundant Power

Kurt Olson, Environmental Attorney, The Law Office of Kurt J. Olson

North Carolina is a biogas rich state, ranking third in the country for biogas resources. Nevertheless, there have been several challenges to unlocking this clean and locally sourced energy option. This panel will discuss the challenges for biogas project financing including the development of a renewable natural gas standard, aggregation offtake challenges, feedstock concerns, risk perception, and other issues that create challenges and barriers to market entry for North Carolina biogas producers.



2:30 – 3:30 P.M.

Consumer Options for Financing Renewables

Moderated by: **Dylan Reed**, Director, Congressional Affairs, Advanced Energy Economy

Thad Culley, Attorney, Keyes & Fox

Lauren Bowen, Attorney, Southern Environmental Law Center

HB 589 allows several consumer options for financing renewables such as the Green Source Rider program, which allows large customers to procure renewable energy; third party leasing of solar energy facilities that offer an affordable and attractive method of meeting renewable energy goals; and community solar, whereby customers who otherwise would not have access to solar energy on their own property are able to subscribe to solar energy facilities as a way of reducing energy costs. This session will discuss each of these consumer options and how they offer choices for financing renewable energy.

3:30 – 4:30 P.M.

Utility Scale Solar RFP in an Integrated Environment

Lee Peterson, Senior Manager, Cohn Reznick

HB 589 lays out a process to move to a competitive bidding/request for proposals for the future growth of utility scale solar in North Carolina. The law lowers the state's avoided cost rate, but kept the 20-year length for power purchase agreements under PURPA. The law also opened access to solar developers for lower-cost financing and set a solar deployment target of 6,800 MW by 2020. Rulemaking is just beginning under this new law but what are the finance issues likely to be as we get started?

5:00 – 7:00 P.M

Conference Adjournment & Reception

Ivan Urlaub, Executive Director, NC Sustainable Energy Association

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