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NCSEA Announces Clean Energy Award Winners at Making Energy Work 2015

NCSEA recognizes champions contributing to North Carolina's growing clean energy economy at 7th annual conference

Raleigh, N.C., Oct. 7, 2015 – The [North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association](#) (NCSEA), a leading 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization dedicated to shaping the state's clean and efficient energy future, recognized business leaders, community members, policymakers and organizations for their ongoing contributions to elevating North Carolina's role as a clean energy leader through its annual Clean Energy Awards.

NCSEA honored the Clean Energy Award winners at the [Making Energy Work Conference](#) at the Raleigh Convention Center; where hundreds of energy stakeholders gathered to discuss the latest information, solutions and technologies impacting a secure energy future and how clean energy can continue to flourish in a globally competitive economy. The winning legislators were presented their awards Tuesday, Oct. 6, after the conference's "Legislative Outlook & Tips for Advocacy" panel, while other clean energy leaders were applauded at a Wednesday, Oct. 7 luncheon event.

Presented annually since 2005, the NCSEA Clean Energy Awards highlight leaders who demonstrate outstanding willingness to commit time, effort and leadership to expanding North Carolina's clean energy portfolio and advancing job growth and economic investments throughout the state. The 2015 Clean Energy Award recipients include:

- **Gisele Rankin, NC Utilities Commission – Lifetime Achievement Award**
- **Alevo – Clean Energy Business Innovation Award**
- **VF Corporation – Clean Energy Business Leadership Award**
- **NC GreenPower Solar Schools Center – Clean Energy Community Leadership Award**
- **O2 Energies EMC, Montgomery Solar Event – Clean Energy Community Initiative Award**
- **Tate Rust, WaterFurnance International – Individual Leadership Award**
- **Jen Banks, Southeast Wind Coalition – Rising Professional Award**
- **Sen. Jerry Tillman – Legislator of the Year**
- **Sen. Brent Jackson – Legislator of the Year**
- **Sen. Jeff Tarte – Legislator of the Year**
- **Rep. Chuck McGrady – Legislator of the Year**
- **Rep. Jason Saine – Legislator of the Year**
- **Rep. John Bradford – Clean Energy Emerging Leader**
- **Rep. Sam Watford – Clean Energy Emerging Leader**
- **Rep. Ken Goodman – Clean Energy Emerging Leader**
- **Rep. Howard Hunter – Clean Energy Emerging Leader**
- **Rep. John Szoka – Excellence in Public Policy**

"Since we began presenting the NCSEA Clean Energy Awards, North Carolina's clean energy economy has witnessed monumental advances. In just the past 7 years, North Carolina has invested over \$2.6 billion in renewable energy projects, leading to an economic impact of over \$4.7 billion. These investments are paying off. Last month, North Carolina became the first state in the southeast and the fourth state in the nation to have surpassed 1 GW of installed solar capacity," said Ivan Urlaub, NCSEA's executive director. "North Carolina's clean

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energy economy has champions from every corner of the state. This year’s Clean Energy Award winners have been instrumental in creating thousands of jobs, and providing longstanding infrastructure to secure a resilient, affordable electric portfolio for our future.”

For more information on the Making Energy Work conference, please visit: <http://www.makingenergywork.org/>.

About NC Sustainable Energy Association

The NC Sustainable Energy Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization of individuals, businesses, government and nonprofits interested in North Carolina's sustainable energy future. NCSEA is the leading North Carolina nonprofit devoted to leading public policy change and driving market development in ways that will create clean energy jobs and lower electric rates in the long-term. Founded in 1978, NCSEA works every day to support and attract clean energy jobs, economic opportunities and affordable energy to benefit North Carolina. Today, our Raleigh-based team of clean energy advisors, analysts and advocates works closely with policymakers, consumers and industry leaders to research, inspire and affect clean energy progress statewide.

For regular updates, please visit NCSEA online at energync.org and follow NCSEA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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