

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NC GreenPower Announces 2021 Solar+ Schools Grant Recipients

- **Program awards educational solar installations to 15 North Carolina schools**
- **State Employees' Credit Union Foundation provides additional grant to program**

RALEIGH, NC – NC GreenPower is pleased to award 15 North Carolina schools each with a solar educational package, valued at approximately \$42,000. In addition to a solar array, the schools will receive donated SunPower solar modules, a STEM curriculum, teacher training and more.

The new schools join 42 other awardees since the Solar+ Schools program launched in 2015. NC GreenPower's Board of Directors' review committee met this spring to evaluate applications and make selections for 2021's program. For the first time, 15 schools will be awarded solar installations, up from a maximum of five in Solar+ Schools' first five years and 10 in 2020.

The schools who have currently accepted the grant are:

- Cape Hatteras Secondary School – Dare County*
- Davidson K-8 School – Mecklenburg County
- Friends School of Wilmington – New Hanover County
- George Watts Montessori Magnet Elementary School – Durham County
- John T. Hoggard High School – New Hanover County
- McClintock Middle School – Mecklenburg County

- Northeast Elementary School – Lenoir County*
- Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary School – Duplin County*
- Shiloh Valley Elementary School – Union County
- Triad Math and Science Academy – Guilford County*
- Triangle Math and Science Academy – Wake County
- Waynesville Middle School – Haywood County*
- Woodlawn School – Iredell County*

**Indicates new county to the NC GreenPower Solar+ Schools program*

Two more schools will be announced later this month.

Now in Solar+ Schools' seventh year, the staff remains optimistic about its future. "This year's response to our Solar+ Schools program was fantastic, especially given the many challenges brought on by COVID-19," said Vicky McCann, vice president of NC GreenPower. "We are so excited to work in six new counties, with schools from the central and far western parts of our state, as well as one on the Outer Banks. We look forward to helping educate younger generations about energy with these solar installations, and by the end of next year, we will have reached more than 41,600 students across North Carolina."

Using NC GreenPower's fundraising platform, each school has until September 30, 2021, to raise a portion of the funds required. Donations as little as \$1 can be made to support any campaign. [Click here](#) to view their fundraisers and learn how to donate.

The NC GreenPower Solar+ Schools program is open to all public and private K-12 schools in North Carolina. The installed PV systems, which are 3-5 kilowatts, serve as educational tools and provide an energy impact, likely producing enough renewable energy to power a school's main office. The solar arrays have generated an average of 8,026 kilowatt-hours annually, potentially saving schools up to \$800 per year. Collectively, NC GreenPower Solar+ Schools have saved nearly \$43,000 in electricity expenses. For updates about the program, visit www.ncgreenpower.org/solar-schools.



NC GreenPower is also pleased to announce that the member-funded State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) Foundation is continuing its generous support of Solar+ Schools. The SECU Foundation's contribution will offer up to \$20,000 in additional funding to each of five selected public schools.

"Since we began our support for the Solar+ Schools initiative in 2015, we have seen this program grow and expand, helping so many schools across our state benefit from having a working solar array on campus," said Jama Campbell, SECU Foundation Executive Director. "The NC GreenPower Solar+ Schools program continues to provide valuable educational resources and energy-saving opportunities, and we are happy to assist in their ongoing efforts to make a positive difference for our schools, teachers and students."

NC GreenPower's McCann added, "We are appreciative of SECU members for their continued financial support and partnership, helping us improve the environment and increase solar education in our state."

About NC GreenPower

Formed by Advanced Energy in 2003, NC GreenPower is a nonprofit whose mission is to expand public knowledge and acceptance of cleaner energy technologies to all North Carolinians through local, community-based initiatives.

Since NC GreenPower's inception, donors have supported more than 1,125 local renewable energy and carbon offset projects, producing 1.06 billion kilowatt-hours of green energy and mitigating nearly 97,000 tons of greenhouse gases. In 2015, NC GreenPower launched Solar+ Schools to support solar PV installations at K-12 schools. Contributions to NC GreenPower are tax deductible. For more information, visit www.ncgreenpower.org.

About SECU and the SECU Foundation

A not-for-profit financial cooperative owned by its members, SECU has been providing employees of the state of North Carolina and their families with consumer financial services for over 83 years. The Credit Union also offers a diversified line of financial advisory services including retirement and education planning, tax preparation, insurance, trust and estate

planning services, and investments through its partners and affiliated entities. SECU serves over 2.5 million members through 272 branch offices, 1,100 ATMs, 24/7 Member Services via phone, a website, www.ncsecu.org and a Mobile App. Members can also follow and subscribe to SECU on Facebook and YouTube. The SECU Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization funded by the contributions of SECU members, promotes local community development in North Carolina primarily through high impact projects in the areas of housing, education, healthcare and human services. Since 2004, [SECU Foundation](#) has made a collective financial commitment of over \$200 million for initiatives to benefit North Carolinians statewide. In addition to the website, highlights are also available on the SECU Foundation Instagram page.

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