

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

ENERGY EFFICIENCY DAY

2020

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, reliable, affordable energy is vital to North Carolina's economic prosperity and energy efficiency is the leading cost-effective way to meet our energy needs; and

WHEREAS, estimated at over 88,000 jobs at the end of last year, North Carolina's energy efficiency sector ranks 7th in the nation; additionally, our state has more clean energy jobs in rural areas than any other state in America, providing an economic solution as state leaders work to address the growing economic divide between our rural and urban communities; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency policies provide critical support for communities traditionally underserved by clean energy and energy efficiency programs, including those living in rural areas; low-income individuals and families; renter families; agricultural communities; and small businesses, while helping them lower their energy bills; and

WHEREAS, North Carolinians were hard at work in this sector prior to the COVID-19 pandemic; education and economic recovery efforts focused on energy efficiency can maintain and create additional energy efficiency jobs; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 80 called on the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to collaborate with residents and stakeholders in the development of a North Carolina Clean Energy Plan in order to further utilize energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Clean Energy Plan presents specific recommendations to advance energy efficiency by educating consumers, creating new utility programs, implementing new standards, and making energy efficiency more accessible; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's existing energy efficiency programs and standards have significantly reduced energy use and costs for businesses, institutions, farms, schools, residents, and governments, making them more financially stable; implementing energy efficiency is the first resource to lower the rate of greenhouse gas emissions, which is essential in combating climate change and mitigating its current and future impacts on our businesses, communities, and ecosystems; and

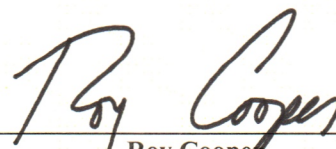
WHEREAS, through the work of the Utility Savings Initiative within the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and all state owned facilities, since 2002 our state has saved more than \$1.65 billion by implementing energy efficiency measures in public buildings; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, energy efficiency measures resulting from the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard avoided 1,555 tons of nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and 1,240 tons of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and reduced carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 2.4 million tons, which is 4.6 percent of the total CO₂ emitted by power plants in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's existing efficiency policies and programs would contribute 4 percent toward North Carolina's 2030 climate goal of reducing 2005 emissions by 70 percent in the electric power sector; continuing and further expanding of North Carolina's energy efficiency programs and policies could achieve 11 percent of the electric power sector greenhouse gas reductions needed to meet our state's 2030 goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 7, 2020, as "ENERGY EFFICIENCY DAY" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this seventh day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.