



Governor Cooper Issues Executive Order 80 to Address Climate Change and Resiliency December 2018

On October 29, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order Number 80, committing the state to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 40% below 2005 levels by 2025. Additionally, the order calls for an increase in registered, zero-emission vehicles (“ZEVs”) in North Carolina to at least 80,000 and a 40% reduction in energy consumption in state-owned buildings. The order also creates the North Carolina Climate Change Interagency Council, which includes a representative from every state cabinet agency, to make changes happen.

The order also directs the following actions:

- DEQ will develop a NC Clean Energy Plan to encourage the use of clean energy, including wind, solar, energy efficiency, and energy storage.
- NCDOT will develop a plan to accelerate the use of zero-emission vehicles across state government. Cabinet agencies will prioritize the use of ZEVs for trips that can reasonably be made with a ZEV.
- DEQ will help cabinet agencies improve their energy efficiency and publicly report utility consumption.
- The NC Department of Commerce will support the expansion of clean energy businesses and service providers, clean technology investment, and companies with a commitment to procuring renewable energy.
- All cabinet agencies will integrate climate mitigation and resiliency planning into their policies, programs and operations.

This EO presents opportunities for POTWs to implement energy recapture programs, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and resiliency/redundancy projects. Such projects may qualify for state facilitation and even financial support.