



NC Poll Finds Continued Bipartisan Support for Clean Energy

- 3 out of 4 Trump voters say they are more likely to support pro-clean energy legislators
- Jobs and economy remain biggest concern for N.C. voters
- 83 percent of polled voters back politicians who support renewable energy

RALEIGH, N.C., March 14, 2017 – North Carolinians — Republican, Democrat and Unaffiliated — view clean energy as an economic development issue, not a partisan one, according to a new poll from [Conservatives for Clean Energy](#) (CCE). The poll of 600 N.C. voters conducted by Strategic Partners Solutions, a leading Republican campaign consulting firm, reveals strong bipartisan support for: increasing electricity customers' access to renewable energy and energy efficiency; maintaining or increasing the state's existing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) law; and increasing competition and choice for energy purchasing.

In addition, the poll explores voters' opinions about current and future energy sources, the community impact of renewable energy projects, coal ash and potential rate increases.

"While we have plenty of issues that divide our state, renewable energy isn't one of them," said Mark Fleming, President and CEO of Conservatives for Clean Energy. "North Carolina voters see renewable energy as a tremendous opportunity for economic growth for our state, which is already home to over 34,000 jobs across a \$7 billion clean energy industry. We need only to look at other states in the Southeast, such as South Carolina, Georgia and Virginia, as states pursuing more aggressive clean energy policies."

There were several areas of agreement among those surveyed including:

- In three years of polling, over 70 percent desire greater competition and choice for energy purchasing within N.C.'s highly-regulated, monopoly-controlled electricity market.
- Nearly 56 percent agree that multi-acre solar projects positively impact communities.
- Over 83 percent say they would be more likely to support a lawmaker or candidate who supports policies that encourage renewable energy options such as solar, wind and waste-to-energy technologies (79.1 percent of Republican voters and 73.5 percent of Trump supporters would support such a candidate).
- More than half are very concerned about coal ash.

While the survey revealed several areas of agreement among N.C. voters, it also uncovered continuing trends toward the political center, said Paul Shumaker, a leading political strategist and President of Capitol Communications. "At last count, an average of 281 people relocate to North Carolina every day. Many of those transplants see the value of renewable energy and want legislators to make renewables a priority for North Carolina," he said. "In addition, our survey revealed both lifelong residents and those who live in rural areas strongly support renewables."

"Although many Americans might say their country has changed dramatically after the November election, the polling results on clean energy in North Carolina remain the same: people of all political parties strongly support clean energy, including three out of four Trump voters who want a greater investment in renewable energy," said Dee Stewart, President and CEO of The Stewart Group. "At the end of the day, North Carolinians care about job creation. They have seen the positive economic impact of renewables in their communities and want lawmakers who will help keep the economic momentum driving forward by supporting energy policies where renewable energy growth can be sustained and more communities can benefit."

The poll was conducted on February 27 and 28, 2017. View the complete poll briefing presentation [online here](#) and follow the conversation on social media using [#NCEnergyPoll](#).

About Conservatives for Clean Energy

Conservatives for Clean Energy educates the public about the benefits of clean and renewable energy sources in North Carolina. The organization helps to lead the conversation about the economic benefits of clean energy within North Carolina's economy. As conservatives, the organization encourages competition and free markets, which allows for vibrant, sustainable economies. Clean and renewable energy sources represent the future of energy in North Carolina. Additional information about Conservatives for Clean Energy can be found at: www.cleanenergyconservatives.com.

Learn more about Strategic Partners Solutions, Paul Shumaker and Dee Stewart [here](#).

###