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**Governor Cooper Announces \$156 million  
EPA Award to Strengthen Solar Energy Use  
in Communities Across North Carolina**

On Monday, April 22 Governor Roy Cooper announced that EnergizeNC, North Carolina's Solar for All coalition, has been selected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for \$156 million in funding through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) grant program. This funding will help households across the state utilize the benefits of low-cost, reliable solar energy, particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

"North Carolina continues to lead the way toward a clean energy future and we are grateful to be selected by the EPA for this groundbreaking grant program," said Governor Cooper. "This funding will help cut energy costs and help families across North Carolina live cleaner and healthier lives."

The EnergizeNC coalition is led by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's State Energy Office, in collaboration with Advanced Energy, the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center, and the North Carolina Clean Energy Fund. The EnergizeNC proposal is designed to deploy rooftop solar on low-income homes in order to save North Carolinians money.

"The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Solar for All program is an important opportunity for low- and moderate-income North Carolinians to access and enjoy the benefits of clean energy, including utility cost reductions," said Julie Woosley, Director of DEQ's State Energy Office. "More than 70 organizations have offered letters of support for the EnergizeNC proposal, and we look forward to working with community stakeholders across the state to bring the greatest impact."

"The Solar for All funding from EPA will bring clean energy to households for whom energy costs are a big slice of their household budget. The North Carolina EnergizeNC program design aligns solar with existing low-income energy efficiency efforts, to provide long-term affordability. We will complement the low-income efforts with work to expand accessible home energy financing for households statewide," said Melissa Malkin-Weber, Co-Director of the North Carolina Clean Energy Fund.

The EnergizeNC coalition will launch a statewide program to transform solar growth in the state, enabling the rapid deployment of distributed solar and associated storage with meaningful benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities across the state, including state- and federally recognized Tribal lands. Throughout the project, the Coalition will focus on four goals: (i) create a comprehensive program management approach; (ii) reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower energy costs, and foster environmental justice; (iii) foster and develop a trained workforce; and (iv) provide robust community engagement to ensure that project benefits flow to disadvantaged communities and individuals.

"The scale of this program will allow us to overcome traditional market barriers to distributed solar by exploring innovative approaches that maximize deployment within our current regulatory framework," said Autumn Proudlove, Associate Director - Policy & Markets at the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center. "The program will also require us to think through ways to bring more installation expertise into the marketplace and to develop methodologies that enhance energy savings and deliver quality outcomes for consumers," added Steve Kalland, Executive Director of the Center.

"This is a historic opportunity for North Carolina. Advanced Energy is excited to work with our coalition partners and other stakeholders to ensure that the installed systems are safe, durable and reliable, and that they perform as expected to provide financial savings and environmental benefits for our underserved communities," said Brian Coble, Chief Operating Officer at Advanced Energy.

To stay up to date with deployment of EnergizeNC and to sign up for updates, please visit [www.energizeNC.org](http://www.energizeNC.org).

**Seize Your Business Opportunities in  
2024 with SPCC's Small Business Center**

This is a release from South Piedmont Community College: The Small Business Center at South Piedmont Community College wants to be your partner in success.

2024 is brimming with possibilities, and we want to ensure you make the most of every opportunity. Whether you're dreaming of starting a new venture, aiming for business growth, or contemplating a reinvention, now is the perfect time to take action. Together, let's turn your aspirations into accomplishments and make this year your most successful yet.

Training: [www.ncsbc.net](http://www.ncsbc.net) | Counseling & Premier Mastermind Group: [spcc.edu/small-business-center/mastermind-group](http://spcc.edu/small-business-center/mastermind-group)

**Upcoming Small Business Webinars** (Info & register at [www.ncsbc.net](http://www.ncsbc.net), click on "Training" and click on South Piedmont CC in the dropdown menu)

- Apr. 30 - Launching Your Dream: Steps to Startup
- May 02 - Video Apps & Creation Tools
- May 02 - From Vision to Action: The Business Plan
- May 06 - How to Livestream for Business
- May 09 - Mastering Long-Form Content (YouTube)
- May 16 - The Power of Short-Form Content
- May 20 - Double Your Sales Now!
- May 28 - Tech Talks Round Table
- Jun 04 - Starting a Nonprofit
- Jun 06 - Intro to Nonprofit Financial Statements

**Look Before You Lock Your Car**

**Prevent child and pet hot car deaths**

On average, 38 children under the age of 15 die each year from heatstroke after being left in a vehicle. Here are some steps to prevent heatstroke in hot cars:

- 1) Never leave your child alone in the car, not even during a quick trip to the store.
- 2) Keep car doors and trunks locked and keep key fobs out of reach, so kids can't climb into cars on their own.
- 3) Create reminders. Place your phone, briefcase, or purse in the backseat when traveling with a child.
- 4) Take action. If you see a child alone in a car, call 911.

For more information, visit [safekids.org](http://safekids.org).



**HEALTHY AGING  
E&PO**

*Celebrate with Grace Senior Center*

**THURSDAY, MAY 23 10AM - 1PM  
LOCKHART-TAYLOR CENTER  
514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro**

*Let's celebrate the well being of our aging community*

"Powered by Connection" Through Health and Wellness

For more information please call 704-694-6616.

**Co-Sponsors:**

Anson County Council on Aging  
Sandhills / Daymark  
Anson County Department of Social Services

NC Department of Insurance SHIP  
(Seniors Health Insurance Information Program)  
Atrium Health Anson  
Goshen Medical Center

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ACCEPTING  
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**ARMS Main Office**  
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Mon-Fri 8am-5pm (Closed 12-1)  
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**ARMS Union Office**  
1328 Patterson Street  
Monroe, NC 28112  
Mon-Fri 8am-5pm (Closed 12-1)  
Monroe Closed Thursdays

The Award - Winning Ansonia Theatre Presents:

Directed by Tommy Wooten

**THE JUNGLE BOOK**

April 19-28th

[ansoniatheatre.com](http://ansoniatheatre.com) 704.694.4950

This performance will be in dedication to Mrs. Margaret Goins