

EnergizeNC Advisory Board Operational Framework

Background

On April 22, 2024, *EnergizeNC*, North Carolina's Solar for All (SFA) coalition, was selected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for \$156 million in funding through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). The coalition is led by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's State Energy Office, in collaboration with the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center, North Carolina Clean Energy Fund, and Advanced Energy. After a planning and design period, the *EnergizeNC* coalition anticipates launching a program in late 2025 to transform solar energy growth statewide, enabling the rapid deployment of distributed solar and associated storage with meaningful benefits to low-income and rural communities across the state.

In early 2025, the *EnergizeNC* Coalition will launch the *EnergizeNC* Advisory Board (AB) to ensure the program reflects the needs and priorities of North Carolina communities.

Activities

The *EnergizeNC* Advisory Board will provide input on various aspects of program design to ensure the program meets the needs of the communities it will serve. Examples may include providing recommendations on the following:

- *EnergizeNC*'s approach to workforce development, ensuring proposed programs are approachable for intended participants;
- Proposed consumer protection measures, ensuring measures are appropriate for program participants;
- Public resources and outreach materials that will communicate how to participate in the SFA program;
- Financial incentive design to ensure proposed strategies are approachable by intended participants;
- Eligibility for Solar for All, within the bounds of applicable program rules; and
- Promoting transparency across the program.

The Advisory Board will also review program outcomes and achievements to continuously integrate community feedback.

Governance Structure

Membership & Eligibility

The AB will include 10-15 community members. Membership is open to individuals with lived experience, professional expertise, or leadership in communities impacted by energy affordability. Members must live or work in North Carolina. This advisory board is intended to represent the program's intended beneficiaries (non-commercial) and be geographically varied.

Term of Service

The Solar for All program is expected to run from December 2024 – April 2029. Members will serve a two-year term, with eligibility to renew annually for the duration of the program. When an

individual steps down early, or at the end of their term, an open nomination process will be held to select their replacement. Any nominees must apply and be approved by *EnergizeNC* leadership.

Leadership

A Chair and Vice Chair will be elected annually by AB members to:

- Act as liaisons between the AB and *EnergizeNC* leadership;
- Co-develop meeting and convening agendas;
- Co-lead AB meetings; and
- Lead the development and finalization of AB written recommendations

The Chair and Vice Chair will be self-nominated and then voted in for the position by all members of the AB.

EnergizeNC leadership will support meeting facilitation, provide technical assistance, and manage logistics. *EnergizeNC* leadership will send meeting agendas in advance to allow all AB members to provide feedback or add topics.

Accountability

The *EnergizeNC* Coalition will present an annual impact summary to AB members. The summary presentation will detail many metrics of the program, but highlighting the following to ensure transparency into the program's process for integrating feedback:

- List of key feedback received;
- Actions taken in response to feedback, or reasons the feedback could not be incorporated; and
- Results from integrating feedback.

Further, the public will be entitled to attend AB meetings and minutes will be published after each meeting.

Logistics

Meeting Frequency

The AB will meet quarterly via Zoom for up to 2 hours. Up to 6 additional hours of work per quarter may be required, depending on need.

EnergizeNC leadership may host one, one-day in-person annual convening to bring together all AB members from across the state for deeper collaboration and reflection.

Accessibility

EnergizeNC leadership will prioritize accessibility through, at a minimum:

- Translation and interpretation services when needed; and
- Closed captioning for online meetings.

Honorarium

Members are eligible for an annual stipend of \$3,000 to compensate for their time and contributions. The stipend will be paid out in two installments. Travel costs will be reimbursed, as applicable.

Proposed Internal Decision-Making Processes

Consensus-Based Model

Members of the AB should strive to reach consensus on all recommendations. If consensus cannot be reached, a simple majority vote will determine the outcome.

Quorum

A quorum will be achieved when at least 50% of current members are present at a meeting. Recommendations requiring a vote will be postponed if the quorum is not met.

Conflict of Interest

Members must disclose any conflicts of interest related to agenda items and abstain from voting where a conflict exists. Members will be required to sign a conflict-of-interest form.

Application & Selection Process

Interested individuals may apply using this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/GpdNWT7UXy>

Individuals may also apply over the phone if access to the internet is limited. To do so, please call Emily Velasquez at 919-438-1827 during regular business hours (9am-5pm).

Applications are due by Friday, April 4 at 5pm EST. Applications will be reviewed by the Coalition and decisions will be extended by Wednesday, April 16. When selecting members of the Advisory Board, the *EnergizeNC* Coalition will consider prospective members' geographic location, background, experience, and ensuring a variety of perspectives are represented. With additional questions, applicants should contact our team at info@EnergizeNC.org.