

NORTH CAROLINA ENERGY POLICY TASK FORCE

What It Is and What It Does



Governor Josh Stein **created** the **North Carolina Energy Policy Task Force** on August 26, 2025 to help guide the state's energy future as electricity demand rises across North Carolina, driven in part by population growth and large energy users like data centers.

The Task Force is charged with developing recommendations to keep energy **reliable, affordable, and clean while reducing carbon emissions**, and will release annual public reports on state energy policy beginning February 15, 2026.

WHO

- Co-chaired by **Representative Kyle Hall** and **NCDEQ Secretary D. Reid Wilson**
- Up to 30 members, currently at capacity. For a full list of members, **visit this site** and find the Agenda and Member Packet.
- Members include elected officials, business and commerce representatives, and some nonprofit organizations, but do not include direct representation from everyday North Carolina workers.
- Supported by staff from the NC Clean Energy Technology Center, the Governor's Office, NCDEQ, and the NC Department of Commerce.

WHERE

Task Force meetings are open to the public and may be attended in person or watched virtually. Registration for upcoming meetings is available online through **this form**.

WHY IT MATTERS

As electricity demand and prices rise, Governor Josh Stein created the Task Force to help strengthen North Carolina's electricity system while keeping power affordable, reliable, and clean. Its work comes amid **recent state energy legislation** that delayed interim carbon-reduction targets for utilities, **shifted more fuel costs** onto residential customers, and raised concerns about **long-term costs** for ratepayers.

At the same time, residential electricity prices have increased faster than overall inflation, according to federal **data**. This comes at a time where a surge of AI data centers is driving up power and water demand across North Carolina, **increasing emissions and electricity costs for customers**.

The Task Force will also study the expansion of data centers across North Carolina and how their growing energy and water demands could affect electricity costs, emissions, and reliability for residents.

It is charged with recommending policies that reduce carbon emissions and support North Carolina's clean energy economy, which employs more than 100,000 people statewide.