

STATUS	POLICY	POLICY AREA	POLICY CATEGORY	YEAR ENACTED
Enacted	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Targets 40% by 2025 50% by 2030 netzero by 2050 Relative to 2005 levels Establishing Policies • Executive Order 80 (2018) • Executive Order 246 (2022)	Climate Governance and Equity	Climate Governance	2022
Enacted	Climate Action Plans North Carolina Deep Decarbonization Pathways Analysis Establishing Policies • Executive Order 246 (2022) • North Carolina Deep Decarbonization Pathways Analysis (2023)	Climate Governance and Equity	Climate Governance	2023
Enacted	State Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory The 1990-2020 Greenhouse Gas Inventory was published in January 2024. Establishing Policies • Executive Order 246 (2022) • 1990-2020 Greenhouse Gas Inventory (2024)	Climate Governance and Equity	Climate Governance	2024



STATUS	POLICY	POLICY AREA	POLICY CATEGORY	YEAR ENACTED
Enacted	Climate Bureaucracy NC Climate Change Interagency Council Establishing Policies • Executive Order 80 (2018) • NC Climate Change Interagency Council	Climate Governance and Equity	Climate Governance	2018
Not Enacted	Climate Advisory Bodies Climate advisory bodies often write or advise on a state's climate plan, and make non-binding recommendations on climate policy design and implementation. The bodies can consist of all non-government members, or be a mix of government and non-government members.	Climate Governance and Equity	Climate Governance	
Not Enacted	Environmental Rights Amendments An Environmental Rights Amendment is an amendment to a state constitution guaranteeing the citizens of that state a right to a clean and healthy environment. The right to a clean and healthy environment can help to address climate change and provide a key tool to regulate greenhouse gases and achieve environmental justice	Climate Governance and Equity	Climate Governance	



goals.



STATUS	POLICY	POLICY AREA	POLICY CATEGORY	YEAR ENACTED
Enacted	Environmental Justice Community Definitions "Underserved populations" are census block groups where (1) at least 50% of residents are non-White or which have a non-White population 10% higher than the county or state share; and (2) where 20% of the population is experiencing poverty and the share of households in poverty is at least 5% higher than the county or state share. Establishing Policies • Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board Charter (2022)	Climate Governance and Equity	Environmental Justice and Equity	2022
Enacted	Environmental Justice Mapping Tools N.C. Environmental Justice Hub DEQ North Carolina Community Mapping System Establishing Policies • DEQ North Carolina Community Mapping System (2020) • Executive Order 292 (2023) • N.C. Environmental Justice Hub (2024)	Climate Governance and Equity	Environmental Justice and Equity	2024





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Not Enacted	Environmental Justice Community Investment Requirements Environmental justice (EJ) community investment requirements help ensure communities most impacted by environmental burdens are benefitting equitably from public programs by requiring a certain percentage of funds and/or benefits from other policies are	Climate Governance and Equity	Environmental Justice and Equity	
Enacted	Environmental Justice Bureaucracy Cabinet Agencies Environmental Justice and Equity Leads NCDEQ – Environmental Justice Coordinator Establishing Policies • Executive Order 246 (2022) • Cabinet Agencies Environmental Justice and Equity Leads • NCDEQ – Environmental Justice Coordinator	Climate Governance and Equity	Environmental Justice and Equity	2022
Enacted	Environmental Justice Advisory Bodies Environmental Justice Advisory Council Establishing Policies • Executive Order 292 (2023) • Environmental Justice Advisory Council	Climate Governance and Equity	Environmental Justice and Equity	2023



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Not Enacted	Cumulative Impact Assessment Cumulative impact assessments determine the health and environmental impacts of renewing or granting a permit for certain pollution-generating facilities in environmental justice communities. Increased pollution burdens in communities may result in the permit application being denied.	Climate Governance and Equity	Environmental Justice and Equity	
Not Enacted	Just Transition Plans Just transition plans are documents that outline policies and recommendations aimed at supporting communities, workers, and industries affected by the transition away from fossil fuels. The plans often focus on workforce development and retraining, job creation, and economic diversification.	Climate Governance and Equity	Just Transition	
Not Enacted	Just Transition Offices and Staff Just transition offices and staff assist workers and communities transitioning away from fossil fuel extraction and use, typically through retraining programs and support with relocation and economic diversification. Offices and staff also coordinate with other state agencies to effectively design policy to achieve a just transition.	Climate Governance and Equity	Just Transition	





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Not Enacted	Just Transition Advisory Bodies Just transition advisory bodies write or advise on a state's just transition plan or report, and make recommendations on ways to support affected workers, communities, and industries. The bodies can consist of all nongovernment members, or be a mix of government and nongovernment members.	Climate Governance and Equity	Just Transition	
Not Enacted	Just Transition Funds Just transition funds support initiatives and investments aimed at facilitating the equitable transition of workers and communities affected by shifts in industries or policies that transition from fossil fuels.	Climate Governance and Equity	Just Transition	
Enacted	Green Banks North Carolina Clean Energy Fund Establishing Policies North Carolina Clean Energy Fund	Cross-Sector	Climate Finance	2020
Not Enacted	Divestment State divestment means ending new investment in the fossil fuel industry and phasing out existing fossil fuel investments in public funds, such as state pensions, over time. States can also set greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for their investment portfolios.	Cross-Sector	Climate Finance	

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Not Enacted	Carbon Pollution Pricing The 2023 budget included language that prohibits the governor and state agencies from requiring electric utilities to join a cap-and-trade program. Establishing Policies • HB 259 (2023)	Cross-Sector	Carbon Valuation	
Enacted	Social Cost of Carbon State agencies are encouraged to incorporate the social cost of carbon into agency decision-making processes that impact greenhouse gas emissions. Establishing Policies • Executive Order 246 (2022)	Cross-Sector	Carbon Valuation	2022
E nacted	Clean Energy and Renewable Portfolio Standards 10% renewable energy by 2018 for munis and coops 12.5% renewable energy by 2021 for investor-owned utilities (IOUs) Establishing Policies • N.C. Gen. Stat. §62-133.8 (2007)	Electricity	Energy Plans and Targets	2007



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Enacted	Electricity Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Targets 70% reduction by 2030, relative to 2005 levels, and carbon-neutral emissions by 2050 Establishing Policies • HB 951 (2021)	Electricity	Energy Plans and Targets	2021
Enacted	Clean Energy Plans North Carolina Clean Energy Plan Establishing Policies • Executive Order No. 80 (2018) • North Carolina Clean Energy Plan (2019)	Electricity	Energy Plans and Targets	2019
Not Enacted	Consolidated State Siting and Permitting Authority States can establish some form of statewide, consolidated siting and permitting entity — typically a council or board — for renewables and/or transmission to streamline project review and prevent uncertainty in the face of local governments' restrictions or prohibitions of renewable generation or transmission.	Electricity	Permitting and Grid Integration	



STATUS	POLICY	POLICY AREA	POLICY CATEGORY	YEAR ENACTED
Enacted	Interconnection Standards North Carolina received a C grade from Freeing the Grid. Establishing Policies • Freeing the Grid North Carolina Grade (2023)	Electricity	Permitting and Grid Integration	2023
Not Enacted	Enabling ATTs and GETs Advanced transmission technologies (ATTs) and grid enhancing technologies (GETs) are a family of technologies that can enhance the capacity of the existing electrical transmission and distribution system. State policies that promote ATTs and GETs can be key to unlocking renewable energy development at lower cost and with shorter wait times.	Electricity	Permitting and Grid Integration	
Partially Enacted	Net Metering The State Policy Opportunity Tracker (SPOT) breaks clean energy policies down into "components", which are binary questions to evaluate policy quality. Higher quality policies have more of their SPOT components fulfilled. Establishing Policies • SPOT - Net Metering in North Carolina • SPOT - Aggregate Net Metering in North Carolina Policy Components • Metering in North Carolina	Electricity	Permitting and Grid Integration	



YEAR **POLICY STATUS POLICY POLICY AREA CATEGORY ENACTED Shared Renewables** The State Policy Opportunity Tracker (SPOT) breaks clean energy policies down into "components", which are binary questions to evaluate policy quality. Higher quality policies have more of their SPOT Incentivizing Partially Electricity components fulfilled. **Clean Energy** Enacted Resources **Establishing Policies** • SPOT - Shared Renewables in North Carolina **Policy Components** 4/6 **Community Choice Aggregation**



Community choice aggregation allows local governments to procure power on behalf of their residents, businesses, and municipal accounts from an alternative supplier while still receiving transmission and distribution service from their existing utility provider.

Electricity

Incentivizing Clean Energy Resources

STATUS	POLICY	POLICY AREA	POLICY CATEGORY	YEAR ENACTED
Partially Enacted	Distributed Generation Carveout The State Policy Opportunity Tracker (SPOT) breaks clean energy policies down into "components", which are binary questions to evaluate policy quality. Higher quality policies have more of their SPOT components fulfilled. Establishing Policies • SPOT – Generation Carveouts in North Carolina Policy Components	Electricity	Incentivizing Clean Energy Resources	
Not Enacted	Energy Storage Targets Energy storage targets establish procurement targets for energy storage systems by a certain date, often with interim targets. Targets can vary from broad megawatt (MW) requirements to more specific mandates that focus on the adoption of certain storage technologies.	Electricity	Incentivizing Clean Energy Resources	
Not Enacted	Coal Phaseouts Coal phaseouts establish a target year by which states must end coal-fired power generation.	Electricity	Coal Retirement	



STATUS	POLICY	POLICY AREA	POLICY CATEGORY	YEAR ENACTED
Enacted	Coal Plant Securitization Requires the securitization of 50% of the remaining value of all subcritical coal-fired generating facilities, with the remaining costs to be recovered through energy rates Establishing Policies • HB 951 (2021)	Electricity	Coal Retirement	2021
Enacted	Residential Energy Codes The statewide energy code for residential construction is 2015 IECC. Establishing Policies • North Carolina State Energy Code (2018)	Buildings and Efficiency	Building Codes	2018
Enacted	Commercial Energy Codes The statewide energy code for commercial building construction is 2015 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2013 with amendments. Establishing Policies North Carolina State Energy Code (2018)	Buildings and Efficiency	Building Codes	2018
Not Enacted	Stretch Building Energy Codes Stretch building energy codes are an optional, more stringent building code established by the state that local jurisdictions can adopt to require that newly constructed buildings are more efficient than the baseline state codes.	Buildings and Efficiency	Building Codes	



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Not Enacted	Appliance Standards Appliance standards set minimum energy and water conservation requirements for appliances and equipment.	Buildings and Efficiency	Building Standards	
Not Enacted	Building Performance Standards Building performance standards establish energy and/or greenhouse gas performance targets for existing buildings in a state. These targets increase in stringency over time, leading to efficiency improvements in buildings to conserve energy and reduce emissions.	Buildings and Efficiency	Building Standards	
Not Enacted	Clean Heat Standards Clean heat standards establish a performance standard requiring heat providers to deliver a gradually-increasing percentage of low-emission heating services to customers.	Buildings and Efficiency	Building Standards	



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Enacted	Energy Efficiency Resource Standards (EERS) Public electric utilities in the state	Buildings and Efficiency		
	must obtain renewable energy power and energy efficiency savings of 12.5% of 2020 retail sales in 2021 and thereafter. 40% of this requirement can be met with energy efficiency measures annually.		Building Efficiency	2007
	Gas utilities are not subject to an EERS.			
	Establishing Policies			
	 SB 3 (2007) § 62-133.8. Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (CEPS) (2017) 			
	Property Assessed Clean Energy			
	(PACE)		Building Efficiency	
Enacted	North Carolina has enacted commercial PACE-enabling legislation and has active programs.	Buildings and Efficiency		2024
	Establishing Policies			
	SB 802 (2024)North Carolina C-PACE			



Program



POLICY YEAR **STATUS POLICY POLICY AREA CATEGORY ENACTED Weatherization Funding** The State Policy Opportunity Tracker (SPOT) breaks clean energy policies down into "components", which are binary questions to evaluate policy quality. Higher quality policies have more of their SPOT Buildings and Partially **Building** components fulfilled. Enacted Efficiency **Efficiency Establishing Policies** • SPOT - Weatherization Funding in North Carolina Policy Components 1/4 **All-Electric Buildings** All-electric buildings policies Buildings and require new buildings to be **Building** constructed with all-electric Enacted Efficiency **Electrification** heating, cooling, and cooking systems to transition away from fossil-fuel use in buildings. **Thermal Energy Networks** Thermal energy networks are neighborhood-scale energy projects that allow multiple buildings to be connected through a shared network of underground Buildings and pipes to distribute heating and **Building** Not cooling, often using renewable Enacted Efficiency **Electrification** energy sources like geothermal or waste heat. State policymakers can create an enabling regulatory structure, and may also commission pilots, allow cost recovery, or create mandates to help transition from natural gas.





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Not Enacted	Low-Emission Vehicle (LEV) Standards Under Section 177 of the Clean Air Act, California has the unique authority to establish vehicle emission standards more stringent than federal standards, and other states may adopt California's standards. These Low-Emission Vehicle (LEV) standards control tailpipe emissions of criteria pollutants and greenhouse gasses from light-duty vehicles.	Transportation	Light-Duty Vehicles	
Not Enacted	Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Mandates Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandates, also known as "clean car standards," require automakers to produce and sell a certain percentage of zero-emission light- duty vehicles each model year based on total new vehicle sales. The most stringent ZEV mandates require 100% of new vehicle sales to be electric by 2035 and are known as "Advanced Clean Cars II".	Transportation	Light-Duty Vehicles	
Not Enacted	Electric Vehicle Rebates Electric vehicle rebates offer rebates to make light-duty electric vehicles more affordable to increase their adoption in a state.	Transportation	Light-Duty Vehicles	





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Not Enacted	Low NOx Omnibus Rules establish stringent tailpipe emission standards for heavy duty vehicles, updated testing procedures, and technology-neutral compliance mechanisms to reduce nitrous oxide (NOx) pollution. The regulation must be adopted first by California, and other states may adopt the regulation under the federal Clean Air Act.	Transportation	Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles	
Not Enacted	Medium- and Heavy-Duty (MHD) Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Mandates In 2022, Governor Cooper signed EO 271 directing the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to propose that the Environmental Management Commission adopt an Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) program by May 15, 2023. However, the 2023 budget included language that prohibits ACT's regulatory process from proceeding further. Establishing Policies • Executive Order 271 (2022) • HB 259 (2023)	Transportation	Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles	
Not Enacted	Medium- and Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebates Medium- and heavy-duty (MHD) electric vehicle rebates consist of programs and policies that offer rebates to make MHD electric vehicles more affordable to increase their adoption in a state.	Transportation	Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles	

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	Public Fleet Electric Vehicle (EV) Procurement Targets			
	Agencies must prioritize ZEVs when purchasing new passenger vehicles		Lead by Example	
Enacted	Agencies must prioritize medium- and heavy-duty ZEVs when purchasing new MHD vehicles	Transportation		2018
	Establishing Policies			
	Executive Order 80 (2018)Executive Order 271 (2022)			
Not Enacted	Electric Bus Procurement Targets	Transportation Lead by Example		
	Electric bus procurement targets require that a certain percentage or number of school buses and/or transit buses purchased or leased by the state, transit authorities, and/or school districts must be electric or zero-emissions.			
	Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging			
Not Enacted	Infrastructure Requirements			
	Electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure requirements establish mandates for the installation of EV charging infrastructure in new construction or developments, such as residential or commercial buildings, and public parking lots.	Transportation	EV Charging Infrastructure	





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Not Enacted	Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Rebates Electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure rebates offer rebates to make the purchase and/or installation costs of EV charging infrastructure more affordable.	Transportation	EV Charging Infrastructure	
Enacted	Electric Vehicle (EV) and EV Charging Infrastructure Plans N.C. Clean Transportation Plan North Carolina Zero Emission Vehicle Plan 2022 Progress Update Establishing Policies • North Carolina Zero Emission Vehicle Plan 2022 Progress Update (2022) • Executive Order 246 (2022) • N.C. Clean Transportation Plan (2023)	Transportation	Transportation Plans and Targets	2023
Not Enacted	Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Targets Transportation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets are set by a state to limit emissions in the transportation sector. These targets aim to reduce emissions by specific amounts over time, often expressed as a percentage reduction from a baseline year.	Transportation	Transportation Plans and Targets	





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Not Enacted	Low Carbon Fuel Standards A low carbon fuel standard (LCFS) is a market-based mechanism to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels and account for the fuel's life cycle greenhouse gas emissions.	Transportation	Transportation Plans and Targets	
Partially Enacted	Bicycle Friendly States North Carolina is ranked 17th out of 50 in the 2024 Bicycle Friendly State rankings by the League of American Bicyclists. Establishing Policies • North Carolina Bicycle Friendly State Scorecard Policy Components	Transportation	Public and Active Transportation	
Not Enacted	Buy Clean Requirements Buy clean requirements mandate or incentivize the use of low-carbon construction materials, such as concrete and steel, in public projects to address embodied carbon.	Industry, Materials, and Waste Management	Industrial Decarbonization	
Not Enacted	Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Regulations Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) regulations include phasedown commitments, rulemakings, disclosure requirements, bans, or other measures that reduce HFC usage and emissions.	Industry, Materials, and Waste Management	F-gas Regulations	



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Not Enacted	Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF6) Regulations Sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) regulations include phasedown commitments, reporting requirements, bans, or other measures that reduce SF6 usage and emissions.	Industry, Materials, and Waste Management	F-gas Regulations	
Not Enacted	Oil and Gas Methane Regulations Oil and gas methane regulations include phasedown commitments, reporting requirements, leak detection and repair, or other measures that reduce methane emissions from oil and gas production.	Industry, Materials, and Waste Management	Oil and Gas Regulations	
Not Enacted	Fracking Bans Fracking bans prohibit the practice of hydraulic fracking for the production of oil and/or natural gas by a certain year. Legislation often requires an environmental agency or department to promulgate regulations.	Industry, Materials, and Waste Management	Oil and Gas Regulations	
Not Enacted	Landfill Methane Regulations Landfill methane regulations include rulemakings, emissions monitoring, emissions control, or other measures that reduce methane emissions from decaying organic waste in landfills.	Industry, Materials, and Waste Management	Waste Management	



STATUS	POLICY	POLICY AREA	POLICY CATEGORY	YEAR ENACTED
Not Enacted	Food Waste Bans and Targets Food waste bans and targets include policies that prohibit certain entities that generate specified amounts of food waste (typically commercial businesses and larger institutions) from sending this waste to landfills. Targets aim to reduce total food waste by a certain percentage each target year.	Industry, Materials, and Waste Management	Waste Management	
Enacted	Healthy Soils Financial Incentives The Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) provides financial assistance to help address nonpoint source pollution, including soil health measures. Establishing Policies • General Statute 106-850 (1984) • Agriculture Cost Share Program	Natural and Working Lands	Agriculture	1984
Enacted	Healthy Soils Technical Assistance Programs The Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) provides technical assistance to help address nonpoint source pollution, including soil health measures. Establishing Policies • General Statute 106-850 (1984) • Agriculture Cost Share Program	Natural and Working Lands	Agriculture	1984