



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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NORTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES SECURE SOLAR RESOURCES FROM SMALL BUSINESSES

Raleigh, NC, July 19, 2010 – GreenCo Solutions®, a services company owned by the majority of the state's electric cooperatives, announced today its involvement in two recently constructed solar photovoltaic (PV) projects at small businesses located in Carrboro and Chapel Hill, NC.

GreenCo's participation in the projects was coordinated by Strata Solar, formerly Solar Tech South of Chapel Hill, NC, who designed and installed both projects, as well as another project announced earlier this year – a 224-kilowatt PV array on the roof of CPU2 in Arden, NC.

Chapel Hill Tire Co. Car Care Center's 16.4-kilowatt PV array went live in April 2010. The PV system is now producing electricity from solar panels on the roof of its Carrboro location. Duke Energy will purchase the energy.

A 100.8-kilowatt PV array began producing electricity in June 2010 at Pickards Mountain Eco-Institute in Chapel Hill. GreenCo member Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation will purchase the energy.

Under a twenty-year renewable energy certificate (REC) purchase agreement, GreenCo will purchase all RECs generated from the facilities for its electric cooperative members. The electric cooperatives will use the RECs for compliance with the state's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) which begins in 2010 with a 0.02% solar requirement that increases to 0.20% by 2018.

"Partnerships such as this one between GreenCo and Strata Solar benefit locally-owned small businesses who want to generate solar energy on their premises," said Strata Solar CEO, Markus Wilhelm.

"North Carolina's electric cooperatives are developing a diverse portfolio of solar resources to meet the renewable energy goals of our electric cooperative members," said Tim Bennett, Vice President of Business Operations for GreenCo Solutions. "These projects are an example of how the electric cooperatives are supporting the growth of the solar industry in North Carolina."

GreenCo Solutions is a member-owned organization created in 2008 to help the state's electric cooperatives meet their renewable energy and energy efficiency goals and comply with the state's REPS.

Strata Solar provides photovoltaic and thermal solar energy systems for residential and commercial applications.

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Chapel Hill Tire Co. Car Care Center in Carrboro, NC has installed a 16.4 kilowatt-photovoltaic system on its rooftop.



Pickards Mountain Eco-Institute in Chapel Hill, NC has installed a 100.8-kilowatt photovoltaic system on its grounds.

