

Information Item

Date: June 14, 2022

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Johnnie Taylor, Assistant City Manager
Helen Peplowski, Office of Sustainability Director

Subject:

Information on the Clean Cities Coalition regional effort in Eastern, Northeastern, and Central North Carolina through the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center

Strategic Focus Area: Healthy Environment

Strategic Objective: Support Green Initiatives

Strategic Plan Action Item: Reinvigorate Sustainability Programs

Key Work Item: No



Clean Cities Coalitions were originally created by the U.S. Department of Energy to help reduce reliance on petroleum products and improve air quality by convening partnerships of public and private stakeholders to share information and resources regarding alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies. The North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC), part of North Carolina State University's College of Engineering with a mission to advance a sustainable energy economy, currently works with three Clean Cities Coalitions in the state covering the Charlotte, Raleigh-Durham, and Asheville metropolitan areas.

Currently, only 44% of the state's population is covered by the three existing coalitions. The fourth Clean Cities Coalition would cover an additional 45% of North Carolina's population and the NCCETC is seeking partners to help form it to provide alternative fuel initiatives to rural and underserved communities in the Eastern, Northeastern, and Central regions of the state.

The NCCETC is seeking stakeholders in the three previously named regions to support the formation of this new Clean Cities Coalition to expand opportunities for clean fleets, alternative fuels, and sustainable transportation across North Carolina. There is no financial commitment required of the stakeholders and member jurisdictions will have access to resources providing guidance on methods to improve the efficiency and sustainability of fleet vehicles. NCCETC staff can also provide assistance by providing advice on available technologies and available grant funds to help offset the costs of installing new technologies, such as funding for EV charging infrastructure from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.