

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

October 29, 2018

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 80

### NORTH CAROLINA'S COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRANSITION TO A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina residents deserve to be better educated, healthier, and more financially secure so that they may live purposeful and abundant lives; and

**WHEREAS**, N.C. Const. art. XIV, § 5 requires the conservation, protection, and preservation of state lands and waters in public trust; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina is well positioned to take advantage of its technology and research and development sectors, along with its skilled workforce, to promote clean energy technology solutions and a modernized electric grid; and

**WHEREAS**, public-private partnerships in North Carolina foster market innovations and develop clean energy technology solutions that grow the state's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the effects of more frequent and intense hurricanes, flooding, extreme temperatures, droughts, saltwater intrusion, and beach erosion have already impacted and will continue to impact North Carolina's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, climate-related environmental disruptions pose significant health risks to North Carolinians, including waterborne disease outbreaks, compromised drinking water, increases in disease-spreading organisms, and exposure to air pollution, among other issues; and

**WHEREAS**, to maintain economic growth and development and to provide responsible environmental stewardship, we must build resilient communities and develop strategies to mitigate and prepare for climate-related impacts in North Carolina.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED**:

1. The State of North Carolina will support the 2015 Paris Agreement goals and honor the state's commitments to the United States Climate Alliance.

The State of North Carolina will strive to accomplish the following by 2025:

- a. Reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 40% below 2005 levels;
- b. Increase the number of registered, zero-emission vehicles ("ZEVs"; individually, "ZEV") to at least 80,000;
- c. Reduce energy consumption per square foot in state-owned buildings by at least 40% from fiscal year 2002-2003 levels.

2. Cabinet agencies shall evaluate the impacts of climate change on their programs and operations and integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation practices into their programs and operations. Council of State members, higher education institutions, local governments, private businesses, and other North Carolina entities are encouraged to address climate change and provide input on climate change mitigation and adaptation measures developed through the implementation of this Executive Order. Consistent with applicable law, cabinet agencies shall actively support such actions.
3. The Secretary or designee of each cabinet agency and a representative from the Governor's Office shall serve on the North Carolina Climate Change Interagency Council ("Council"), which is hereby established. The Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, or the Secretary's designee, shall serve as the Council Chair. The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality shall lead the Council by providing strategic direction, scheduling and planning Council meetings, determining the prioritization of activities, facilitating stakeholder engagement, and assisting in the implementation of pathways to achieve the goals provided in Section 1 of this Executive Order.

The duties of the Council shall include the following:

- a. Recommend new and updated goals and actions to meaningfully address climate change;
  - b. Develop, implement, and evaluate programs and activities that support statewide climate mitigation and adaptation practices;
  - c. Establish workgroups, as appropriate, to assist the Council in its duties;
  - d. Consider stakeholder input when developing recommendations, programs, and other actions and activities;
  - e. Schedule, monitor, and provide input on the preparation and development of the plans and assessments required by this Executive Order;
  - f. Review and submit to the Governor the plans and assessments required by this Executive Order.
4. The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ") shall develop a North Carolina Clean Energy Plan ("Clean Energy Plan") that fosters and encourages the utilization of clean energy resources, including energy efficiency, solar, wind, energy storage, and other innovative technologies in the public and private sectors, and the integration of those resources to facilitate the development of a modern and resilient electric grid. DEQ shall collaborate with businesses, industries, power providers, technology developers, North Carolina residents, local governments, and other interested stakeholders to increase the utilization of clean energy technologies, energy efficiency measures, and clean transportation solutions. DEQ shall complete the Clean Energy Plan for the Council to submit to the Governor by October 1, 2019.
  5. The North Carolina Department of Transportation ("DOT"), in coordination with DEQ, shall develop a North Carolina ZEV Plan ("ZEV Plan") designed to increase the number of registered ZEVs in the state to at least 80,000 by 2025. The ZEV Plan shall help establish interstate and intrastate ZEV corridors, coordinate and increase the installation of ZEV infrastructure, and incorporate, where appropriate, additional best practices for increasing ZEV adoption. DOT shall complete the ZEV Plan for the Council to submit to the Governor by October 1, 2019.
  6. The North Carolina Department of Commerce ("DOC") and other cabinet agencies shall take actions supporting the expansion of clean energy businesses and service providers, clean technology investment, and companies with a commitment to procuring renewable energy. In addition, DOC shall develop clean energy and clean transportation workforce assessments for the Council to submit to the Governor by October 1, 2019. These assessments shall evaluate the current and projected workforce demands in North Carolina's clean energy and clean transportation sectors, assess the skills and education required for employment in those sectors, and recommend actions to help North Carolinians develop such skills and education.
  7. Cabinet agencies shall prioritize ZEVs in the purchase or lease of new vehicles and shall use ZEVs for agency business travel when feasible. When ZEV use is not feasible, cabinet agencies shall prioritize cost-effective, low-emission alternatives. To support implementation of this directive, the North Carolina Department of Administration ("DOA") shall develop a North

Carolina Motor Fleet ZEV Plan (“Motor Fleet ZEV Plan”) that identifies the types of trips for which a ZEV is feasible, recommends infrastructure necessary to support ZEV use, develops procurement options and strategies to increase the purchase and utilization of ZEVs, and addresses other key topics. DOA shall complete the Motor Fleet ZEV Plan and provide an accounting of each agency’s ZEVs and miles driven by vehicle type for the Council to submit to the Governor by October 1, 2019, and annually thereafter.

8. Building on the energy, water, and utility use conservation measures taken pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-64.12(a), DEQ shall update and amend, where applicable, a Comprehensive Energy, Water, and Utility Use Conservation Program (“Comprehensive Program”) by February 1, 2019, and biennially beginning December 1, 2019, to further reduce energy consumption per gross square foot in state buildings consistent with Section 1 of this Executive Order. The Comprehensive Program shall include best practices for state government building energy efficiency, training for agency staff, cost estimation methodologies, financing options, and reporting requirements for cabinet agencies. DEQ and cabinet agencies shall encourage and assist, as requested, higher education institutions, K-12 schools, and local governments in reducing energy consumption. To achieve the required energy consumption reductions:
  - a. By January 15, 2019, each cabinet agency shall designate an Agency Energy Manager, who shall serve as the agency point of contact.
  - b. Each cabinet agency shall develop and submit an Agency Utility Management Plan to DEQ by March 1, 2019, and biennially thereafter, and implement strategies to support the energy consumption reduction goal set forth in Section 1 of this Executive Order. DEQ shall assess the adequacy of these plans and their compliance with this Executive Order.
  - c. By September 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, each cabinet agency shall submit to DEQ an Agency Utility Report detailing its utility consumption, utility costs, and progress in reducing energy consumption.
  - d. DEQ shall develop an annual report that describes the Comprehensive Program and summarizes each cabinet agency’s utility consumption, utility costs, and achieved reductions in energy consumption. DEQ shall complete this report for publication on its website and for the Council to submit to the Governor by February 1, 2019, and annually thereafter beginning December 1, 2019.
9. Cabinet agencies shall integrate climate adaptation and resiliency planning into their policies, programs, and operations (i) to support communities and sectors of the economy that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change and (ii) to enhance the agencies’ ability to protect human life and health, property, natural and built infrastructure, cultural resources, and other public and private assets of value to North Carolinians.
  - a. DEQ, with the support of cabinet agencies and informed by stakeholder engagement, shall prepare a North Carolina Climate Risk Assessment and Resiliency Plan for the Council to submit to the Governor by March 1, 2020.
  - b. The Council shall support communities that are interested in assessing risks and vulnerabilities to natural and built infrastructure and in developing community-level adaptation and resiliency plans.
10. DEQ shall prepare and manage a publicly accessible Web-based portal detailing the Council’s actions and the steps taken to address climate-related impacts in North Carolina. Cabinet agencies shall submit data, information, and status reports as specified by the Council to be published on the portal. In addition, DEQ shall develop, publish on the portal, and periodically update an inventory of the state’s greenhouse gas emissions that, among other things, tracks emissions trends statewide by sector and identifies opportunities for additional emissions reductions.
11. By October 15, 2019, and annually thereafter, the Council shall provide to the Governor a status report on the implementation of this Executive Order.
12. This Executive Order is consistent with and does not otherwise abrogate existing state law.

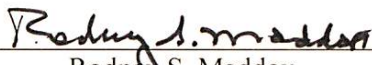
13. This Order is effective October 29, 2018 and shall remain in effect until rescinded or superseded by another applicable Executive Order.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Roy Cooper  
Governor

**ATTEST:**



Rodney S. Maddox  
Chief Deputy Secretary of State

