

## DEQ Corporate Partnership Initiative Fact Sheet

### **What is the SustainableNC Partnership Initiative about?**

DEQ is collaborating with corporate partners across the state to become a national leader in energy innovation and transition to a low carbon economy while creating good jobs and retaining our quality of life. This partnership will help North Carolina reach its goal to reduce 2005 level greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2025 and will help companies across the state achieve their voluntary environmental goals.

### **Why create a Corporate Partnership Initiative?**

While many North Carolina companies have committed to environmental sustainability goals, others may not be aware of their options or of the resources available to deploy clean energy solutions, achieve operational efficiency, and reduce costs. DEQ's partnership aims to:

- Support, encourage and accelerate voluntary strategies and actions for environmental sustainability.
- Recognize self-paced voluntary actions at all levels, from initial commitments through completion of major initiatives.

### **How Can My Company Benefit?**

- **Promotion of company commitments and action** – DEQ and its partners will recognize North Carolina companies that have made ambitious environmental pledges to help showcase their achievements and inspire what's possible. More visibility for your environmental sustainability actions can boost your brand in the local community, help attract and retain talent, increase engagement with your employees and differentiate your company in vendor selection.
- **Best Practices** – DEQ established this partnership program in collaboration with leading corporations based on the most commonly employed corporate environmental commitments. This program is intended to create an on-ramp for businesses to learn and engage in environmental actions in these 6 areas:
  - Planning
  - Energy efficiency/buildings
  - Renewable energy
  - Transportation
  - Waste & water
  - Engagement & Outreach
- **“Lead by example” and information exchange** – DEQ, in collaboration with businesses, will bring corporate experiences and the benefits of sustainable practices to interested organizations to share motivations, learnings and results, and accelerate voluntary strategies. Actions may include:
  - Sharing and promoting successful case studies and leadership examples
  - Sharing publicly available resources and assessment tools
  - Identifying barriers to meeting environmental goals and working to identify solutions
  - Convening roundtable discussions, “Lunch & Learns” and other meetings throughout the state, leveraging existing business and partner forums whenever possible