

NREL has offered qualified community teams - comprised of a municipal government, an NGO, and a utility - the opportunity for an in-depth partnership toward achieving community clean energy transition goals. This offering includes \$500k in funding for the local effort (over 3 years) and up to \$3.5 million in technical assistance from NREL during that period. The BHPCC believes that a partnership with NREL will provide new resources and insights to dramatically accelerate our progress toward our community goals of 100% clean energy, particularly in the commercial and industrial sectors. We have initiated a working draft [available here](#).

### **Our Goals for the 3.5 million research funding:**

- Increase our understanding of baseline building stock by referencing data available from permits and public records to see what current heating, cooling, and water heating technologies are being used and are likely ready for upgrades.
- Work with Duke and Dominion Energy to gather data about energy use in private buildings to the extent that data can be shared or provided to NREL for modeling.
- Identify large users and low-hanging fruit and work with our team to promote voluntary participation in an energy audit with Waste Reduction Partners or NREL.
- Model the economic investment required to meet the 100% renewable energy goal, including the opportunities created by the Inflation Reduction Act, and other incentives that may be available. Provide the ROI for investments made by the private sector.
- Model energy production capacity within County limits and on county-held lands including wind, solar, geothermal, and hydroelectric. Also, model load balancing through a "Virtual Power Plant" after the adoption of electrified technologies.
- Design policy improvements to our "community benefits round table" and incentives to make developers and industrial facilities voluntarily implement "green measures". Identify opportunities to rezone or utilize lands for renewable energy production.
- This analysis and modeling above would identify projects ripe for electrification, energy efficiency, and renewable energy investment and direct BHP initiatives for industries, businesses, and neighborhoods. NREL would continue analysis and modeling to assist in coordination with Duke and Dominion, the City of Asheville, and Buncombe County. Local program staff would use the information for community engagement and education.

### **Opportunity for Community Engagement \$500K**

This funding would allow us to support the grant's research work through targeted engagement in the business community and develop relationships to recruit commercial and industrial participants. This funding would provide for additional staff support and the budget for marketing materials, outreach events, and data management tools needed for the strategic deployment of programs. Strategic partnerships could include:

- Surveying the Manufacturers Alliance, Brewers Alliance, and Asheville Buncombe Hotel Association or other local industry associations.
- Coordinating with the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism and Development Authority
- Increased capacity for Waste Reduction Partners

- Shared programming with Land of Sky Regional Council
- Network of regional renewable energy developers