

## MEDIA ALERT

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**October 6, 2016**

### NC GreenPower dedicates second Solar Schools solar PV system at New Bern High School

**NEW BERN, NC** – NC GreenPower and the State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) Foundation will celebrate the second of four 5 kW solar PV projects installed at North Carolina schools through the Solar Schools pilot program. New Bern High School will hold a ceremony on Thursday, October 6 from 1:15pm – 2:15pm. The school is located at 4200 Academic Drive in New Bern, N.C.

NC GreenPower launched the Solar Schools Pilot program on April 1, 2015 to provide matching grants for the installation of a solar PV array at schools, providing clean, green renewable energy in North Carolina. All K-12 schools were encouraged to apply and the positive response received was an indication of strong interest in the program. Meadowview Magnet Middle School was the first school in the Pilot program to receive a solar PV array.

The solar PV array with the monitoring equipment, weather station and curriculum will serve as an educational tool in the classrooms, and will likely produce enough renewable energy to power the school's main office. The solar PV system will save an estimated 6,570 kilowatt hours in electricity with a potential cost savings of \$657 annually.

NC GreenPower teamed up with SECU members via the SECU Foundation to help expand the Solar Schools pilot. From 2015 to 2017, SECU Foundation will provide a total investment of up to \$140,000, awarding a \$10,000 matching challenge grant to 14 K-12 public schools that meet NC GreenPower's program requirements for the installation of a pole-mounted solar PV system on school campuses.

For updates about the pilot, visit their website here: [www.ncgreenpower.org/solar-schools-pilot/](http://www.ncgreenpower.org/solar-schools-pilot/)

### **About NC GreenPower**

With the mission of improving the quality of the environment in North Carolina, the nonprofit NC GreenPower was founded in 2003 as a statewide program. NC GreenPower helps to connect consumers with renewable energy and carbon offset providers to create positive environmental and economic impacts for our state. All projects supported by the program are located in North Carolina. In 2015, NC GreenPower launched a new pilot to support solar PV installations at K-12 schools. Contributions to NC GreenPower are tax-deductible. For more information, visit: [www.ncgreenpower.org](http://www.ncgreenpower.org)

### **About SECU and the SECU Foundation**

A not-for-profit financial cooperative owned by its members, SECU has been providing employees of the State of North Carolina and their families with consumer financial services for 78 years. The Credit Union also offers a diversified line of financial advisory services including retirement and education planning, tax preparation, insurance, trusts, estate planning and investments through its partners and affiliated entities. SECU serves two million members through 254 branch offices, over 1,100 ATMs, 24/7 Contact Centers and a website, [www.ncsecu.org](http://www.ncsecu.org). The SECU Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization funded solely by the contributions of SECU members, promotes local community development in North Carolina primarily through high impact projects in the areas of housing, education, healthcare and human services.

### **ABOUT CRAVEN COUNTY SCHOOLS**

Craven County Schools, located in Eastern North Carolina, is comprised of 25 schools in the district. The number of schools for the district overall are: 15 Elementary Schools, five Middle Schools, three Traditional High Schools, and two Early College High Schools. Craven County was home to the first charter school in North Carolina, New Bern Academy, established in 1764. In 1986, New Bern City Schools merged with Craven County Schools to become a countywide school district, serving a population of 103,505, with a land area of 708 miles. Craven County Schools is home to approximately 14,000 students. For more information about Craven County Schools, visit [www.craven.k12.nc.us](http://www.craven.k12.nc.us).

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