

Why should your school apply for an NC GreenPower Solar+ Schools grant?

NC GreenPower is pleased to announce that we are accepting applications for the tenth year of our grant! The NC GreenPower Solar+ Schools program provides grants for a 20-kilowatt (kW) solar array, complete with a weather station, real-time monitoring, a curriculum package, and training for teachers. NC GreenPower estimates that there will be funding for up to 10 school grants this year. The total number of awards will depend on donations made to the program.

Any public North Carolina K-12 school in a Tier 1 or Tier 2 county, as defined by the [NC Department of Commerce](#), may apply. The grant will pay for **all** the project's construction costs, expected to be approximately \$52,000, though schools should raise \$3,500 to cover any future operations and maintenance expenses. In addition, awardees will receive nearly \$8,000 in related benefits, such as a STEM curriculum package and teacher training. Applicants are evaluated on a number of criteria — more information about the grant and eligibility requirements can be found in the [Application Information](#) document.

Need help getting your principal on board with applying for the Solar+ Schools program? Here are some reasons to apply:

Your school will receive a 20-kW solar educational installation that will

- Enhance your students' education experience and serve as a hands-on project to learn from for years to come
- Reduce your school's electricity costs (for schools served by Duke Energy, Dominion Energy, and some electric cooperatives and municipalities)
- Be visible to the community and your students — show off your school's STEM and energy focus to prospective students and interested members of the community

The package includes a weather station and a real-time data monitoring system that can

- Incorporate live data from the array into your classroom ([example here](#))
- Compare different scenarios (sunny vs. rainy days, summer vs. winter days) and involve students in reading and interpreting the data
- Share solar production data online — compare your school's weather and energy output to data from our other schools across North Carolina

Grade-level-appropriate curriculum and teacher training is provided

- Your school will receive custom curriculum packages specific to your grade levels, solar kits with hands-on activities for the classroom and energy-themed curriculum booklets.
- A one-day training with six hours of continuing education units is provided for up to five teachers from your school with a certified National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project trainer.
- Training and curriculum are provided in partnership with NEED. Materials support Next Generation Science Standards, Common Core State Standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics, and individual state science standards, where applicable. Access the correlations files for the relevant standards [here](#).

Grant funding is provided!

- NC GreenPower donations cover 100% of the project installation costs, including interconnection fees, appropriate permits, a weather station, an online data monitoring system, the curriculum package, energy kits for students and the teacher training session. NC GreenPower will be the project manager for the construction process.
- Schools will be asked to fundraise \$3,500 to hold for approximately five years of operations and maintenance. Maintenance is limited to checking the online system regularly to ensure the components are sending data through the IT channels and keeping the solar modules free of debris.

*Questions and answers regarding our Solar+ Schools program can be found [in our FAQ section](#).
Additional questions should be emailed to solarschools@ncgreenpower.org.*