

# sync<sup>TM</sup> Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



Gov. Bev Perdue signs House Bill 1481 to strengthen state energy policy leadership.

## Perdue strengthens energy policy leadership

Gov. Bev Perdue on Aug. 7 signed House Bill 1481 to strengthen state energy policy leadership, a significant step forward in her JobsNOW Green Economy Plan.

The action, along with the announcement of 14 Green Business Fund grants, is part of a three-pronged strategy to make North Carolina a leader in green economy jobs by strengthening state leadership in energy policy, making smart investments to create jobs and foster innovation, and providing green-collar workforce training.

"Strong leadership and smart investments are essential to laying a foundation for North Carolina to create green jobs, support green innovation and promote a sustainable future for our state's economy and environment," Gov. Perdue said. "Turning green into gold is a central part of my JobsNOW initiative and of my vision to grow North Carolina's long-term economy."

As part of the governor's plan to strengthen and focus leadership in state energy policymaking, HB 1481:

- Moves the State Energy Office from the Dept. of Administration to Commerce, more closely linking the office's activities with economic development
- Transfers the Residential Energy Conservation



Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco speaks at a luncheon in Fayetteville.

## Crisco, Carroll tour Fayetteville

The Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce hosted Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco and Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll on an Aug. 4 bus tour of the Fayetteville-Cumberland County area.

The tour showcased Cumberland County's efforts to prepare for the impacts of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) Report. The tour also offered information on the variety of buildings and sites available for projects, the number of local defense companies, and the large workforce that often remains in the area after serving active duty at nearby Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base.

The tour included a drive through of Freedom Center, the Military Business Park, the Cumberland Industrial Center and the Cedar Creek Business Center. It also provided a look at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum and time with county and city leaders.

Following the tour, Crisco and others spoke at a luncheon, which featured presentations on development in Fayetteville and Cumberland County.

[N.C. commerce secretary sees job growth from BRAC](#) (The Fayetteville Observer, Aug. 4)

- Assistance Program from the Dept. of Health and Human Services to the relocated State Energy Office,
- Strengthens the effectiveness of the Energy Policy Council by improving representation from environmental groups, alternative energy producers and energy services specialists; the council will refocus on creating green jobs and protecting the environment.

Gov. Perdue named John E. P. Morrison assistant secretary for energy at Commerce. Morrison will oversee the [State Energy Office](#), coordinating the state's energy efforts across programs and agencies, promoting the development of the state's green economy and providing energy policy advice and staffing for the Energy Policy Council. Most recently Morrison, who lives in Chapel Hill, was chief operating officer for Advanced Energy, a nonprofit agency dedicated to energy efficiency and alternative energy. The Ohio native brings 30 years of business and energy experience to the post. [Read more about Assistant Sec. for Energy John E. P. Morrison.](#)

The governor also appointed Tim Toben chairman of the Energy Policy Council. Toben serves on the N.C. Legislative Commission on Global Climate Change and is chairman of the Board of Visitors at the UNC-Chapel Hill Institute for the Environment. He also is a principal in green energy and green building ventures in North Carolina. Toben and his wife, Megan, own and manage an educational farm in Orange County that operates on a hybrid solar and wind renewable energy system.



Gov. Bev Perdue with representatives from the Green Business Fund 2009 Award winners

## Green Business Fund winners announced

Gov. Perdue on Aug. 7 announced 14 awardees from across the state, who will receive up to \$99,000 each from the [N.C. Green Business Fund](#) to support green innovation, job creation and economic development. [See the full list of winners.](#)

This is the second annual round of grants from the fund, which helps small businesses, nonprofits and other agencies develop and commercialize environmentally friendly and energy-related products and services.

As lieutenant governor, Perdue proposed the legislation creating the Green Business Fund, which the General Assembly approved in 2007. The funding available each year so far has been \$1 million.

Additionally, as part of the governor's plan, the recently passed state budget includes \$5 million in federal recovery



## Minority economic development leader featured on Web site

Commerce will regularly feature individual leaders making a difference in North Carolina's economy in profiles and podcasts on [www.nccommerce.com](http://www.nccommerce.com). [Andrea Harris](#), president of the Institute of Minority Economic Development (IMED), is the latest profile.

[IMED](#) is a statewide nonprofit organization representing the interest of underdeveloped and underutilized sectors of the state's economic base. The Institute's working philosophy is that--information and business development are critical to wealth creation and to building the asset base among low-wealth sectors of the population. It is also one of the founding partners of [Business Link N.C.](#) (BLNC), a network of statewide, state-funded agencies and organizations that provide services to North Carolina businesses.

In the profile and podcast, Harris discusses North Carolina's collaborative spirit and describes how IMED helped Lisa Pineiro, the owner of an electrical contracting firm who was named North Carolina's 2009 Small Business Person of the Year. Pineiro was selected to introduce President Barack Obama at the 2009 SBA Awards Banquet in Washington, D.C.

"I do brag on North Carolina, and I don't think there's another state like it even in difficult times," says Harris. "I look today at people who talk about what the unemployment rate is, and I say to folks, 'You know, years ago when so many states had lots of people who were poor, the one thing about North Carolina's population is, they worked.' And it's a matter of time before they're back to work again. It's a good place to be."

Other leaders profiled on the Web site are [Chuck Stewart](#) of Raleigh's Tumbling Colors, Nobel laureate [Dr. Oliver Smithies](#) of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine, and [Dr. Anthony Atala](#) of the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

## Three appointed to Economic Development

money for the Green Business Fund.

[North Carolina awards \\$950,000 in 'Green Business' grants to 14 firms](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, Aug. 7)

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## NCBIO to hold annual meeting

The [N.C. Biosciences Organization](#) (NCBIO) will hold its annual meeting Sept. 29 at the N.C. Biotechnology Center in RTP. The meeting will begin at 8:15 a.m. with a networking breakfast followed by a panel presentation, the meeting and the election of new board members. The NCBIO Board of Directors meeting will take place immediately afterward.

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*(Left-right) Kazunori Mawatari, Ajinomoto Inc.; Brad Bigger, Ajinomoto Inc.; Leland Gaskins, Commerce's Tokyo office; Emily Felt, Duke Energy; Bill Bullock, N.C. Biotechnology Center; Jim Nichols, O'Brien/Atkins Associates; and Sumio Shibata, Commerce's Tokyo office*

## Tokyo office hosts N.C. biotech delegation

Sumio Shibata and Leland Gaskins, trade and investment representatives with Commerce's Tokyo office, recently assisted a North Carolina biotechnology delegation with a series of business development meetings in Japan. The North Carolina delegation, which visited Japan July 21-24, included Bill Bullock, vice president of industrial development, [N.C. Biotechnology Center](#); Emily Felt, business development manager, Duke Energy; and Jim Nichols, business development leader, O'Brien/Atkins Associates. The delegation met with CEOs and executives of more than a dozen Japanese companies in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sector who may be interested in relocating or expanding in North Carolina.

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## National solar conference coming to Raleigh in 2011

[The American Solar Energy Society](#) (ASES) has selected Raleigh as the location of its 40th annual National Solar Energy Conference, SOLAR 2011. The conference will take place at the Raleigh Convention Center May 16-21, 2011. According to the [N.C. Sustainable Energy Association](#) (NCSEA) and ASES, the conference is expected to attract more than 5,000 people to downtown Raleigh, with

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## Board

Gov. Perdue recently made the following appointments to the N.C. Economic Development Board: Brett C. Carter Sr. of Huntersville, Dr. Ali Farsaie of New Bern and Ron J. Leeper of Charlotte. Carter is president of Duke Energy Carolinas in Charlotte. Farsaie is president and CEO of SIS Inc. in Kinston. Leeper is the president of R.J. Leeper Construction. [See the full list of board members.](#)

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## In SYNC: Bill Payne

Bill Payne has been an existing industry specialist with Commerce's Asheville office for five years. His job requires him to travel to 10 counties throughout Western North Carolina to support industrial expansion and job growth. Some of the stronger industries are automotive, aerospace, furniture and machining-related industries.

"Our area has a large workforce base with a strong work ethic," says Payne. "Companies expand due to the availability of a quality workforce and community and state support incentives."

Most recently, Payne was involved in the expansion of brake systems and components manufacturer Continental Teves' Henderson County operations, which brought 338 jobs to the area. Continental Teves is part of German giant Continental AG. The deal came together after Payne and Henderson County Economic Developer Andrew Tate visited the plant manager of Continental Teves in Fletcher and discussed the local and state government's support if his parent company would consider an expansion of his facility. Payne says that soon afterward they got a call stating that the company was indeed considering an expansion.

Payne and his wife have lived in Asheville for 15 years. They have four children and eight grandchildren, with a ninth due in September. He cites the mild, four-season weather, fine dining and access to skiing, hiking and tourist attractions such as Harrah's Cherokee and Ghost Town in the Sky as reasons why Asheville is such a great place to live.

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participants traveling from around the world, bringing \$3 to \$6 million in revenue to the region.

"There is a tremendous amount of interest in renewable energy across the nation," said Becky Campbell-Howe, director of professional education at ASES, who oversees the annual conference. "But we were particularly impressed by the excitement about renewable energy in the Triangle region and across North Carolina."

The organization listed "passionate support for renewable energy by local leaders," and "recent economic development within the region" as reasons for holding the conference in Raleigh. ASES and NCSEA will partner with several North Carolina organizations for the conference, including Commerce, the [State Energy Office](#) and the [N.C. Solar Center](#).

ASES is the nation's largest and oldest nonprofit dedicated to advancing the U.S. toward a sustainable energy economy. ASES publishes SOLAR TODAY magazine, organizes the National Solar Tour, produces the National Solar Energy Conference, and works to increase the use of renewable energy across the United States. ASES is based in Boulder, Colo., and has regional and state chapters throughout the country.

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## BRS to add jobs due to Army contracts

[Moore County Partners in Progress](#) announced July 31 that [BRS Defense](#) in Pinebluff will hire additional employees to accommodate two Army contracts won by its parent company BRS Aerospace. Together the contracts total \$17 million. The company will hire 100 new employees, with the jobs to be divided between its North Carolina and Minnesota plants.

Based in South St. Paul, Minn., BRS Aerospace manufactures whole-aircraft emergency parachute systems, military cargo, personnel parachutes and reflective safety products.

## Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by Commerce's Division of Business and Industry (B&I) that illustrate some of the recent activities of the Division. The metrics include the number of new economic development projects assigned to B&I development staff; the number of economic development project announcements; the number of announced jobs created and capital invested; the number of interactions existing-industry staff had with businesses throughout the state; and the number of contacts received by the Business Link North Carolina/Business ServiCenter.

January - Aug. 10, 2009

New projects assigned:	264
Projects announced:	63
Jobs created:	6,427
Capital invested:	\$1.804B
Direct account interactions (industry visits by existing industry staff):	1,007
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	16,304

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## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [House passes film incentive bill that would give movie makers 25 percent tax break](#) (Wilmington Star-News, Aug. 6)
- [Chu announces grant for energy innovation](#) (Charlotte Observer, Aug. 6)
- [Pender commissioners remain neutral on Titan cement plant](#) (Wilmington Star-News, Aug. 5)

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