

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) SAS Solar Farm co-founder and Executive Vice President John Saul, Gov. Bev Perdue, Deputy Commerce Sec. Dale Carroll, and Jerry Williams, project manager for SAS Solar Farm.

Perdue announces reforms to strengthen green economy

Governor Bev Perdue on May 21 announced her energy reform package to attract businesses, create jobs and promote a strong and sustainable green economy in North Carolina. She made the announcement at the SAS Solar Farm in Cary, which provides solar-generated power to Progress Energy.

Gov. Perdue's energy plan refocuses state energy policymaking, makes strategic investments in North Carolina's green economy and increases green-collar workforce development.

"The state that gets green right will own the next 50 years," Gov. Perdue said. "I intend for North Carolina to be that state."

Gov. Perdue's energy plan includes relocating the State Energy Office and state weatherization program to the Dept. of Commerce. According to the plan, the weatherization program will be transferred to the State Energy Office from the Dept. of Health and Human Services. The State Energy Office will be transferred to the Dept. of Commerce from the Dept. of Administration, and will be led by a new energy advisor. The plan also calls for the establishment of an Energy Investment Revolving Loan Fund, expansion of the the Green Business Fund, and growth of a JobsNOW initiative that will provide green-collar jobs training and retraining in community colleges. [Read more.](#)



(Left-right) Commerce's International Business Development Manager Kuldip Wasson receives an award for Leadership and Excellence in International Trade from Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

World Trade Day promotes international commerce

[The World Trade Day 2009](#), held May 19 at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, was a huge success. More than 80 N.C. companies gathered to meet and hear invited experts who had first-hand knowledge of the best practices for doing business successfully worldwide. The topics covered included export sales techniques, global risk management, letters of credit, export pricing, international marketing strategy, and logistics. The team from Commerce's International Trade Division took part in several one-on-one side meetings to provide export counseling to the companies. The luncheon keynote address was given by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, who recognized the importance of international commerce to our economy and way of life.

Raleigh in Bizjournals.com top 10 ranking

Raleigh has ranked in the top 10 on a bizjournals.com list of the nation's 100 biggest tech cities. Bizjournals – the online edition of Business Journals nationwide – identified metros with the highest concentrations of high-tech companies, technology-oriented jobs and workers with advanced degrees. In addition, Greensboro came in at 72 on the list. Raleigh, which ranked tenth, was described as a key anchor of the state's Research Triangle, with Durham and Chapel Hill at the other corners. Only

[Perdue: Developing green economy a priority](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, May 21)
[Governor announces energy changes](#) (mync.com - Raleigh, May 21)
[Perdue announces energy reforms](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, May 21)

Tonight's OPEN/net to look at energy recovery efforts

North Carolina is slated to receive more than 200 million dollars to invest in weatherization and our state energy plan. OPEN/net, a production of the N.C. Agency for Public Telecommunications, will look at energy-related recovery efforts in tonight's (May 26) broadcast. Guests for the segment are Larry Shirley, director of the State Energy Office, John Hardin, acting executive director, N.C. Board of Science and Technology, Tobin Freid, Durham sustainability manager, and Matt Bosse, assistant to the county manager for Wake County. The segment will air at 8 p.m.

Following is a repeat episode on green jobs featuring Charles Sathrum, program manager of the Utility Savings Initiative program for state agencies at the State Energy Office, Paul Quinlan, director of economic research and development at the N.C. Sustainable Energy Association, and Matt Meyer, associate vice president for innovation and biotechnology for the N.C. Community College System.

You can participate in this program by calling 1-888-228-6736. Additionally, you can share your questions and comments by e-mail. Send them before or during the program to open@doa.nc.gov. Program schedules, channel listings, archived video and webstreaming are available at: www.ncaptv.com

The Hamner announces partnership with China Medical City

[The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences](#) has signed an agreement with China Medical City to create the Hamner-China Medical City Institute for International Drug Development. Building on strengths of the two organizations in translational research, business development, and education, the Institute will help to produce new biomedical technologies that benefit the United States and People's Republic of China as well as the rest of the world.

During the first phase of this agreement, the Institute for International Drug Development will be established at The Hamner's campus in Research Triangle Park, and will focus on preclinical drug development and compliance with FDA regulatory standards. After the partners validate research capabilities and new technologies at The Hamner campus, they will transfer them to China Medical City, a new life science park located in the Yangtze River Delta north of Shanghai.

As part of its new strategic agreement with China Medical City, The Hamner has worked with the Dept. of Commerce and Biotechnology Center to create a "North Carolina-China partner network" that supports Chinese business and educational initiatives. Other members of this innovative network include the N.C. China Center, the N.C. China Business Association, Council for Entrepreneurial Development, and N.C. Research Parks Network as well as economic development organizations in counties such as Wake and Durham.

San Jose, Calif., Washington, D.C., and Austin, Texas, have larger ratios of high-tech to private-sector businesses. San Jose ranked first on the list. [See the complete rankings.](#)

Wilmington film studio unveils biggest stage yet

EUE/Screen Gems Studios has built its biggest stage yet at its filmmaking complex in Wilmington. On Monday, the studio unveiled its new Stage 10, with camera crews getting up on a lift for a panoramic view of the 37,500-square-foot grounds. Stage 10 can simulate day, night, wind, storms and fog, and has a 60 x 60-foot special effects water tank with a depth of 10.5-feet. "The fact that the company has been willing to invest in this mammoth, spectacular studio in these tough economic times shows how much the company believes in Wilmington," said Bill Vassar, executive vice president of the local branch of EUE/Screen Gems. "I'm excited about the spectacular products that will be able to work in Wilmington now." The stage can be split into two regular-size studios equipped with everything crews need to work independently. [Read more.](#)

[Wilmington film studio unveils biggest stage yet](#) (Star-News - Wilmington, May19)

Study: Golf contributes \$5.3B to N.C. economy

A new study reports the golf industry's role as a major economic driver in North Carolina, contributing a \$5.3 billion annual economic benefit to the state. With more than 550 courses, North Carolina golf provides the basis for close to 70,000 jobs and \$1.7 billion in wage income alone. The findings are the result from an intensive study commissioned by the North Carolina Alliance for Golf and Golf 20/20, a national collaboration of golf industry partners.

[Golf Contributes \\$5.3B To NC Economy](#) (mync.com, May 14)

Ken Burns to preview national parks film in Asheville

People in Western North Carolina will get a chance to preview the new Ken Burns documentary "The National Parks: America's Best Idea." One of the nation's most influential documentary filmmakers, Burns filmed the six-part PBS series over the course of six years at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and several other national parks. The screening will be held in Asheville on June 3; tickets are still available.

Details of the deal were announced at a ceremony May 20 at The Hamner's RTP headquarters. Gov. Bev Perdue, Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco, former Gov. Jim Hunt, Hamner CEO William Greenlee and N.C. Biotechnology Center CEO Norris Tolson attended. [Read more.](#)

[Perdue lauds Chinese investment](#) (Durham Herald Sun, May 21)

[New Partnership to Bring Jobs to RTP](#) (mync.com - Raleigh, May 21)

RTRP finalizing jobs plan

The Research Triangle Regional Partnership (RTRP) board is finishing work on a [five-year plan](#) to attract thousands of new jobs to the Triangle, and announced details of the plan at the May 21 State of the Region gathering hosted by RTRP and [RTI International](#). According to an article by The News & Observer of Raleigh, the plan will build on the partnership's earlier initiative to expand the local economy around industry "clusters" such as life sciences and technology. Three new targeted clusters include e-learning and advanced gaming, green technologies and defense technologies.

[Research Triangle group finalizing plan for new jobs](#) (the News & Observer - Raleigh, May 21)

Two manufacturers expand in McDowell

Gov. Bev Perdue announced May 22 that Baldor Electric Co., an international supplier of industrial electric motors, mechanical power transmission products, drives and generators, will expand its Marion operations. The company plans to invest \$3.1 million and create 25 jobs during the next three years. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$75,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

Baldor Electric Co., headquartered in Arkansas, operates 26 manufacturing facilities in the United States, Canada, England, Mexico and China, and provides products to 70 countries. Three of the company's plants are in North Carolina -- in Marion, Kings Mountain and Weaverville -- employing a combined workforce of nearly 700 people.

Baldor is consolidating operations by moving a large mounted roller-bearing line from Indiana to its Marion plant, adding 25 positions to the nearly 100 employees already at the facility.

The governor also announced May 21 that Morganton Pressure Vessels LLC, a manufacturer of air pressure vessels and oil separators, filters and containers for absorption dryers, is expanding in McDowell County. During the next three years, the company plans to create 43 jobs and invest \$2 million, including lease payments. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$129,000 One North Carolina Fund grant.

Morganton Pressure Vessels LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Baglioni Group, which is based in Italy and serves clients throughout the world. The company, which currently employs 23 workers, manufactures and assembles air pressure vessels and components.

Morganton Pressure Vessels will expand from its current location in Burke County to a larger Marion building in McDowell County. The company's need for a larger, specialized facility, unavailable in Burke County, led to the

[National parks film to be previewed in Asheville](#) (Asheville Citizen-Times, May 18)

Charlotte Regional Partnership to hold awards luncheon

The [Charlotte Regional Partnership](#) will hold its annual awards luncheon at 11:30 a.m. May 28 at the Charlotte Convention Center. The partnership will present the Jerry Awards, which recognize organizations or individuals that have made significant contributions to economic development in the Charlotte region. This year's recipients are UNC-Charlotte and David Murdock, chief executive of Dole Foods and visionary behind the N.C. Research Campus. UNC President Erskine Bowles will present the keynote address. Ruth Shaw, current chair of UNC Charlotte's board of directors and former CEO of Duke Power Company, is serving as honorary chair of the event.

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the 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 - May 25, 2009

New projects assigned:	189
Projects announced:	41
Jobs created:	3,926
Capital invested:	\$643.9 million
Direct Account Interactions (industry visits by existing industry staff):	727
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	10,926

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Diagnostic Devices plans to add 100 jobs](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, May 22)
- [U.S. Bancorp adds new jobs here](#) (Charlotte Observer, May 22)
- [Piedmont Triad Partnership makes grants](#) (Business Journal of the Greater Triad Area, May 21)
- [Triangle region beat 100,000 new jobs](#)

move. The 43 new jobs will pay an average annual wage of \$28,105, not including benefits. That is higher than the McDowell average of \$27,976.

[Read more about Morganton Pressure Vessels LLC.](#)
[Read more about Baldor Electric Co.](#)

Taylor reelected to SETTRA

The Division of Tourism's Director of Research Marlise Taylor has been re-elected for a third term to the board of directors of the Southeast Chapter of the Travel and Tourism Research Association (SETTRA) as the N.C. representative. SETTRA's goal is to increase the understanding and knowledge of tourism research within the industry and among tourism researchers.

[goal, partnership says: more coming?](#)
(WRAL - Raleigh, May 21)

- [Durham sets visitation record](#) (Triangle Business Journal, May 21)
- [Morganton Pressure Vessels wins North Carolina incentives](#) (Triangle Business Journal, May 21)
- [Perdue announces energy reforms](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, May 21)

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