



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2011

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Public Meeting Will Focus on Coastal Renewable Energy Choices

What exactly are "biofuels" and will we really be running our cars on them? What about wind energy? Are they actually going to build those giant windmills off our coast?

The federation's annual *State of the Coast Report* will answer those questions and many more about the future of renewable energy on the N.C. coast. The report will be released at a public summit in New Bern on Friday, June 24. The meeting -- "Coastal Power: Riding the Wave of Green Energy" -- will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Riverfront Convention Center in New Bern.

"The availability of reliable energy at a reasonable cost is very important to American citizens because of the potential effects on our economy and standard of living," noted Richard Bierly of Morehead City, the federation's vice president and one of the speakers at the summit. "It's even more important that we look carefully at these newer, renewable options that are being considered to ensure that they don't have a deleterious impact on our way of life on the coast."

The meeting will feature free-ranging discussions about those options for renewable energy along the coast including wind, solar, hydrothermal and biofuels. Speakers include experts from the state's universities, the Biofuels Center of North Carolina, the N.C. Solar Center, the N.C. Department of Commerce, FLS Energy, the N.C. Offshore Wind Coalition, the N.C. Coastal Federation, Environmental Defense and the N.C. Sustainable Energy Association.

The summit will focus on the economic and environmental implications for future energy production along our coast. Potential future policy options will also be discussed. People in the

audience will have opportunities to ask questions and join in the discussions. A conference agenda can be found on the federation's Website, www.nccoast.org.

"Energy issues can be very complicated and hard for people to understand," Bierly said. "The purpose of the *State of the Coast Report* and the summit is to educate the public and public officials about an issue that is so important to the future of our region and state."

The summit is open to the public, but seating is limited. The cost is \$25 for federation members and \$40 for non-members, which includes a federation membership. Registration includes lunch, breaks, exhibits and event materials. Register online at www.nccoast.org or call (252) 393-8185.

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The North Carolina Coastal Federation: "Citizens Working Together for a Healthy Coast"

The N.C. Coastal Federation is the state's only non-profit organization focused exclusively on protecting and restoring the coast of North Carolina through education, advocacy and habitat restoration and preservation. The federation's headquarters are at 3609 N.C 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro and are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The federation also operates offices in Wilmington and Manteo. For more information call 252-393-8185 or check out its website at www.nccoast.org