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North Carolina takes home Energy Stewardship Champion award

Louisville, KY—The Energy Services Coalition (ESC) announced its Energy Stewardship Champion awards in recognition of states' outstanding accomplishments in leveraging Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contracting (GESPC) to achieve energy savings, infrastructure modernization, environmental stewardship, and economic development.

North Carolina was among 10 state Champions recognized for this award during the closing ceremonies at the 5th Annual ESC Market Transformation Conference in Louisville, Kentucky on Wednesday, August 24.

"GESPC is a financial strategy leveraging guaranteed future energy savings to pay for energy efficiency upgrades today," said Jim Arwood, ESC Executive Director. "North Carolina has achieved considerable success in support of implementing energy efficiency projects in public buildings through the use of a GESPC."

Arwood added that the example North Carolina has set through executive and legislative leadership, program design, and the investment in energy upgrades using a GESPC financing solution, is a prime model of using financial and energy resources wisely.

The State of North Carolina and the North Carolina ESC Chapter have partnered to ensure that GESPC reduces the strain on taxes and supports a healthy environment for North Carolinians. The public/private partnership promotes solutions to failing and inefficient equipment in aging public buildings to reduce utility costs and energy and water consumption.

North Carolina boasts dozens of examples of energy contracts paying off. From schools to municipalities, universities and even prisons. Some recent examples include:

- North Carolina State University: \$60 million 17-year GESPC that produced over \$10 million in guaranteed energy savings the first two years of the performance period;
- Appalachian State University: \$16.3 million GESPC in 1.6 million square feet of space spread over 28 campus buildings. All of the energy efficient equipment and system improvements will be paid from energy savings over the 13-year contract term.
- City of Greensboro: The city's GESPC for facility improvement measures at the Greensboro Coliseum is estimated to reduce the electrical energy of the facility by nearly 25 percent, water consumption by nearly 30 percent and gas use by more than 50 percent.
- Wilson County reduced its utility costs by \$107,000 annually after completing a \$900,000 GESPC in 2007 to improve comfort levels and operating efficiency at 10 county buildings. The county launched a second performance contract that addressed the Detention Center and a newly acquired office property for the Administration group. The \$330,000 phase two project will save the county an additional \$29,000 annually.

To date, more than 74 public jurisdictions throughout North Carolina have executed guaranteed energy savings performance contracts, leveraging nearly \$500 million in private sector investments into an estimated \$50 million in guaranteed annual energy cost savings.

For more than 40 years now performance contracting has proven over and over again to be a smart solution for public organizations -- allowing them to pay for much needed energy upgrades using avoided future energy costs.

About the Energy Services Coalition

The Energy Services Coalition is a public private partnership promoting the benefits of, providing education on, and serving as an advocate for the widespread use of guaranteed energy performance contracting in public and private facilities. The ESC provides a unique forum in which all stakeholders can work together to address and overcome any barriers which are limiting the effective use of GESPC.