Dear SEWC Supporters,

It’s been a year! We’re grateful to our supporters and stakeholders who continue to encourage the important work we do to bring wind energy to the Southeast. While we often find we need to celebrate the small steps to stay encouraged and maintain momentum, 2021 was a year worth some serious celebration.

Land-based wind projects are moving forward in Mississippi, Virginia, and North Carolina. Offshore wind continues its splash - Virginia is moving forward with their commitment to develop 5,200MW of offshore wind, BOEM has started the leasing process for Wilmington East, and North Carolina’s HB 951 gives promise to offshore wind for the state. That’s just the start of great things to come.

We’re excited about the opportunity this progress brings and are growing our presence to meet it. We have built our first full-fledged coalition campaign: OSW4NC and are beefing up our social media and communications operations.

In order to see the kind of growth in offshore wind we need, our coalition must expand and grow. I’ve been fortunate to have an incredible team working at SEWC, and an ecosystem of partners around the Southeast that make our small organization feel like part of a larger community.

With an eye on 2022 we will continue this rewarding work with more focus on offshore wind, ensuring federal and state agencies are working together, and growing our capacity to meet the needs of the times.

Best,

Katharine Kollins
President
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Apex Clean Energy’s Timbermill project, to be located in Chowan County, is steadily progressing through the state and federal permitting process. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2023 with commercial operation estimated for late 2023. SEWC continues to educate the eastern North Carolina public and local officials about the economic development benefits that this project and others will bring to the area.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused supply chain delays all around the world, and the Rocky Forge project was no exception. Located in Botetourt County, Apex Clean Energy’s project faced permitting delays and subsequent challenges in the early part of 2021. Nonetheless, the project persevered and was granted the necessary permit extension that allowed the project to move forward with development. SEWC provided support and comments throughout the process.

With decarbonization becoming a common goal and technology continuing to advance, SEWC’s Utility Advisory Group met twice in 2021 to discuss the growing opportunities for land-based wind in the region.

In April 2021, the 199MW Sundance Wind project began commercial operation, providing clean, cost-effective power for SWEPCO customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. The project is the first of three that were approved by each state’s regulatory bodies last year, and in total will save SWEPCO customers nearly $2 billion.

Mississippi will be home to the Southeast’s next commercial-scale land-based wind project. Approved by the Public Service Commission in June, Tunica Wind will generate up to 200MW and bring meaningful investment to Mississippi’s Delta region. The project is scheduled to be in operation by late 2022.

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**OFFSHORE WIND**

**SOUTH CAROLINA**
- Reinvigorating the state’s consideration of offshore wind, Governor McMaster appointed Elizabeth Von Kolnitz to serve as the state representative for the BOEM Renewable Energy Task Force, which held its first meeting since 2018 on July 21st, 2021.
- SEWC, along with the South Carolina Energy Office, co-hosted a wind energy workshop in August. The workshop included speakers from academia and economic development, as well as an expert panel on the South Carolina offshore wind supply chain.
- In effort to reengage decisionmakers in the state, SEWC virtually met with legislators to discuss the opportunity for wind in South Carolina during this year’s legislative session. SEWC was joined by member company Nexans on a number of these meetings to provide a first-hand supply chain perspective.

**LOUISIANA**
- Recognizing the state’s rich history of offshore energy production and fabrication, Louisiana’s leadership has made monumental strides towards realizing offshore wind in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Created through Executive Order from Governor Edwards, Louisiana’s Climate Initiatives Task Force has convened throughout the year to develop a plan for the state to reduce net emissions by 26-28% by 2025, 40-50% by 2030, and net-zero by 2050. SEWC has been engaged in the Task Force and submitted an offshore wind Emission Reduction Action Proposal to inform the draft strategy, where offshore wind is now substantially represented.
- As part of a comprehensive leasing strategy, BOEM announced the intent to move towards a lease sale in the Gulf of Mexico as early as late 2022.
- SEWC has worked to engage stakeholders in Louisiana throughout the year, and alongside GNO, Inc. hosted a webinar for offshore wind developers to showcase the state’s unparalleled port and manufacturing assets.

**VIRGINIA**
- Development off the coast of Virginia got a boost when Dominion Energy submitted the application for the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project (CVOW) with the State Corporation Commission (SCC) on November 5th.
- Shortly after, the company announced the primary contract partners for the CVOW project including Siemens Gamesa, which recently announced that the company will locate the first U.S. blade manufacturing facility in Virginia. Other project partners include EEW, BLADT Industries, Semco, and DEWE Offshore.
- Our efforts to encourage the offshore wind industry to develop in a sustainable and equitable manner, has SEWC engaged in outreach around workforce development. Conversations with Secretary of Labor Dr. Megan Healy, State Senator Jennifer McClellan, and Office of DEI Director Dr. Janice Underwood focused on the importance of workforce development metrics and goals for both CVOW and any future projects.
NORTH CAROLINA

• North Carolina has made meaningful progress on offshore wind in 2021. Namely, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order 218 that set forth development goals of 2.8GW of offshore wind deployment by 2030 and 8GW by 2040. The EO also created a position within the Department of Commerce to lead supply chain and workforce development efforts and established a multi-stakeholder working group titled NC TOWERS that will bring varied perspectives to work on similar issues.
• To kick off the year, SEWC commissioned polling from Nexus Polling in partnership with the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication & the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication to better understand the state-wide sentiment on offshore wind. The polling found that the overwhelming majority of voters in the state not only support offshore wind development, but also the laws and regulations required to promote future projects.
• The Department of Commerce published an infrastructure and supply chain study that was conducted by a team led by BVG Associates and included NC State University’s Clean Energy Technology Center. The report highlighted the many strengths that North Carolina offers the offshore wind industry, a variety of opportunities for port investment and supply chain build out, and a robust list of recommendations on potential actions the state could pursue to capture its share of the industry.
• With support from SEWC, North Carolina’s congressional delegation demonstrated its strong, bipartisan support for offshore wind in a letter to BOEM led by Congressman Rouzer and Congresswoman Ross encouraging progress on offshore wind lease sales off the coast of North Carolina. SEWC has made a concerted effort to develop our relationships with the North Carolina federal delegation in 2021.
• The letter also encouraged the Administration to take all available actions to remove an offshore wind leasing ban set to take effect in July 2022. Confirming their commitment, Congresswoman Ross, Congresswoman Manning, and Congressman Butterfield co-sponsored H.R. 2635 which would repeal the leasing moratorium. Further, the North Carolina delegation worked to incorporate a provision within the Budget Reconciliation Package that would do the same.
• The North Carolina General Assembly passed landmark legislation in 2021, requiring the state’s utilities reach 70% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050. The legislation opens an important door for wind’s incorporation into the state’s energy mix. The North Carolina Utilities Commission will oversee the process by which this generation planning will take place, where SEWC intends to be an active participant.
• Development in North Carolina continued to advance, with BOEM publishing a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Kitty Hawk Offshore Wind, and announced a Proposed Sale Notice for Wilmington East; both of which SEWC submitted public comments to support.
OFFSHORE WIND FOR NORTH CAROLINA

• To build on the state’s momentum while recognizing a continued need for education and advocacy, SEWC spearheaded the creation of a multi-organization coalition, Offshore Wind for North Carolina (OSW4NC).

• Organizations in the coalition bring their varied perspectives and strengths in our collective work to advance offshore wind in North Carolina.

• OSW4NC will serve a critical role in galvanizing state-wide support, providing timely and critical education to stakeholders, and advocating for favorable policies and programs at the local, state, and federal level.

GOALS

• Establish a market for offshore wind in North Carolina that maximizes economic opportunity and progress towards state and federal clean energy goals

• Protect wildlife and enhance regulatory certainty by ensuring that offshore wind is developed in an environmentally responsible manner

• Allow and expand future offshore wind development off North Carolina’s coast
OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS
Even with fewer in-person meetings and events, SEWC has had the opportunity this year to speak both remotely to groups and conferences across the region on the benefits of wind energy.

- North Carolina Offshore Wind Chamber Summit
- Elizabeth City State University Economic Summit
- North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center
- North Carolina Energy Conference
- North Carolina Beach, Inlets, and Waterways Association
- Southeast Renewable Energy Summit
- EUCI Renewables Conference
- Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources
- E4 Leadership and Energy Innovation Conference
- South Carolina Clean Energy Conference
- UNC Entrepreneurship
- North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce Energy Day
- Women’s Energy Network
- South Carolina wind workshop

SEWC IN THE NEWS
The coalition continues to serve as a trusted resource for media outlets on wind development and policy in the Southeast.

- Energy News Network
- Coastal News Today
- Renewable Energy World
- Public News Service
- Blue Ridge Public Radio
- Energy Capital Media
- S&P Global
- Coastal Review
- WECT – Wilmington TV
- Charlotte Business Journal
- Triangle Business Journal
- Spectrum News
- Coastland Times
- WRVA – Richmond Morning News
- Virginia Mercury
- Greensboro News and Record
- Business North Carolina Magazine
- News and Observer

OTHER EVENTS
- Hosted TWO virtual Utility Advisory Group Meetings – well attended by 50-70 utility representatives to discuss where wind fits into utility zero carbon goals, and later in the year, land-based wind technology and siting updates
- Provided support for the inaugural celebration of the Nexans’s upgraded Goose Creek, SC, facility
FINANCIALS & LOOKING AHEAD

2021 REVENUE

- 67% Foundation
- 33% Membership

2021 EXPENSES

- 93% Personnel & Payroll Taxes
- 3% Contract Services
- 3% Operations
- 1% Travel

2022 GOALS

- Grow SEWC’s communications capabilities and presence across our footprint, with a particular focus on campaign states
- Fully implement OSW4NC including full-time SEWC presence on the coast, working to strengthen relationships, provide information to stakeholders, and advocate for favorable offshore wind policies and programs
- Uplift the wind energy conversation in SC through presentations, convening a wind working group, policymaker outreach, and capitalizing on the state’s manufacturing and supply chain strengths
- With strong offshore leadership at the Federal level, SEWC will uplift Southeast specific concerns to relevant agencies, work to bring research funding for Southeast priorities, and ensure robust communication between localities, states, and the federal government
- Work with BOEM and state agencies to progress offshore wind opportunities along the Atlantic Coast and Gulf Coast
- Coordinate transmission analysis to find and promote optimal solutions to bring offshore wind into Southeast load centers
- Support project specific land-based wind opportunities across our footprint with analysis, communications, and stakeholder engagement
We want to thank our members and funders again for their continued support, which is critical to our success.

We look forward to continuing our work in the region to expand the wind industry and benefit the Southeast!

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