



## NORTH CAROLINA

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

JANET COWELL, TREASURER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **TREASURER COWELL LEADS RENEWABLE ENERGY DISCUSSION AT THE ANNUAL EMERGING ISSUES FORUM**

RALEIGH – State Treasurer Janet Cowell facilitated a breakout session on renewable energy at the annual Emerging Issues Forum hosted by NC State University’s Institute of Emerging Issues (IEI) today. IEI is dedicated to creating an enduring capacity for renewed innovation in North Carolina that can withstand the external pressures of a rapidly changing national and international environment.

Cowell led a strategic planning discussion with leaders from the finance and energy industries. The discussion focused on ways state and local governments can better utilize financial tools designed to increase the use of renewable energy technologies.

As chair of the Local Government Commission, Cowell and Department staff assist local government officials with managing debt and determining the feasibility of financing projects, including those related to renewable energy.

“Local officials need to be aware of opportunities and incentives that could benefit citizens and the local economy,” stated Cowell. “The State and Federal governments have created a lot of new tools for funding alternative energy projects, including grants and bonds available through the American Recovery Act. In the coming months, my office will work to make sure that our local leaders understand these opportunities and know how to leverage them.”

In its 25<sup>th</sup> year, the Emerging Issues Forum seeks to improve the state’s creative capacity by developing the collaborative network of people, places, processes, and policies that fuel creative thinking. Cowell has been a regular presenter and participant at the Forum and continues to work with the IEI to foster innovation and build creative capacity.

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