



Infrastructure: The Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce supports policies that increase our region’s competitiveness and quality of life through the modernization and maintenance of infrastructure including transportation, water and sewer systems, the energy grid, and broadband.

- State
 - o Implement Carbon Plan mandated by House Bill 951 “Energy Solutions for North Carolina” to ensure reliability and affordability of energy while meeting the stated carbon reduction goals.

In 2021, The Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce supported the passage of House Bill 951 “Energy Solutions for North Carolina,” which passed overwhelming and was signed by the Governor in October. This milestone, bipartisan bill requires the North Carolina energy sector to achieve 70% carbon emissions reductions from 2005 levels by 2030, as well as reach carbon neutrality by 2050. By December 2022, the North Carolina Utilities Commission was required to work with stakeholders to create a plan for these goals while ensuring least-cost planning for energy generation and maintaining or improving the adequacy and reliability of the electric grid. The success of the next step—implementation of this plan—is critically important.

Grid reliability and affordability are extremely important for current businesses and in the recruitment of high demand industries to our region. Maintaining reliability and affordability while reaching the carbon reduction goals is necessary for our region to remain competitive and a desirable place to live and work. The Asheville Area Chamber supports the implementation of House Bill 951 “Energy Solutions for North Carolina” and a Carbon Plan approved by the North Carolina Utilities Commission that provides reliability and affordability while meeting the stated carbon reduction goals.