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Renewable Energy Network Starts Up

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Two local executives for energy and engineering firms are founding a Charlotte chapter of the Renewable Energy Business Network to help companies tap into the region's growing potential as an [energy hub](#).

Bill Taylor, vice president of Global Development for [Daetwyler Clean Energy](#), says Charlotte's potential as a center for manufacturing and engineering for renewable energy often goes overlooked. He says there is already a strong presence here, with companies such as his own.

But there is also a great deal of engineering and manufacturing expertise not currently in the business that could easily be turned to energy and renewable source.

"Many don't know how to retool and get into this space," he says. "They just don't know where to start."

National organization

So he teamed with Joe Tucker, president of [Nol-Tec Systems Southeast](#), to start the REBN chapter. The first meeting will be 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 17 at the Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 E. Morehead Street.

[REBN is a national organization](#) with chapters in 14 cities including Boston, Chicago and New York. Cities often cited as competing with Charlotte as a rising energy hub — such as Austin and Denver — already have chapters.

The Research Triangle Chapter, based in Raleigh, signed on in April.

Daetwyler says he began trying to assemble a network of Charlotte-area companies with renewable-energy ties last year. He attended an energy forum hosted by then Governor-elect Beverly Perdue.

'Sounding board'

He said she talked about attracting alternative-energy businesses to North Carolina. But he felt she underestimated the resources and potential already in Charlotte.

He considers the recent initiative started by Duke Energy to establish a research and manufacturing hub for energy businesses in Charlotte a serious effort. The local network can help that effort, he says, and can help local companies tap into the region's new direction.

"We hope to be a good sounding board to let people in the community and in the industry know what's going on," he says.

Tags: [Daewyler Clean Energy](#), [Duke Energy](#), [energy hub](#), [Nol-Tec Systems Southeast](#), [renewable energy](#), [Renewable Energy Business Network](#)

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