

Durham County NCACC Proposed Goals for 27 Session

First Draft

August 3, 2026

Justice & Public Safety

GOAL: Create Veteran Treatment Courts across the State

Background: Veterans Treatment Courts (VTCs) are specialized, voluntary court programs designed for justice-involved veterans. Instead of incarceration, they focus on rehabilitation. By combining judicial supervision with rigorous treatment and peer mentoring, VTCs address the underlying mental health and substance use issues linked to a veteran's military service.

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Environment

Goal Title: Increase allowable and permitted uses of reclaimed water for County and Municipal Utilities and the communities they serve.

Background: Currently, State rules and laws (NCAC 15A NCAC 02U) effectively view highly-treated reclaimed water as equivalent to raw sewage even though the definition in Section .0103 defines reclaimed water as treated wastewater effluent meeting effluent standards established pursuant to Rule .0301. This precludes the effective, efficient use of this valuable resource that has been treated and disinfected from being used for many non-potable uses as current permit language requires zero runoff of this highly treated reclaimed water. This wastes a valuable resource, further exacerbating water supply stress during times of drought and also increasing costs to utility customers by not allowing appropriate uses of reclaimed water that would significantly leverage our potable water supplies.

Goal Description: Amend NCAC and related permitting standards to view and permit reclaimed water in accordance with potable water and/or stormwater runoff in order to allow broader use of reclaimed water and better leverage valuable potable water supplies for true potable needs.

Possible amendments needed:

* Section .0100 change definition of reclaimed water from a beneficial use of treated ____effluent to a nonpoint source or discharge

* Expand Stormwater Management rules to include reclaimed water as a stormwater discharge and allow it to be run through BMPs

* Transfer language in 15A NCAC 02T .0900 to the Stormwater rules

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Environment

GOAL: Authorize Counties to Charge User Fees for Public Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure

Background: In North Carolina, the authority of local governments to establish and collect fees is governed by enabling statutes enacted by the General Assembly. While municipalities have express statutory authority to charge fees for certain public services, counties may only assess fees when specifically authorized by state law.

Under N.C. General Statute § 160A-314 (Public Enterprise Fees), cities and towns have the authority to establish and collect fees for services they provide, including the operation of public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. This authority, combined with municipalities' general powers to own and operate public facilities, enables them to recover costs associated with providing EV charging services.

Counties, however, do not have comparable express statutory authority to operate EV charging stations as a fee-based public enterprise. Because there is no clear statutory authorization permitting counties to charge user fees for public EV charging services, many counties have concluded they lack the legal authority to recover the costs of operating and maintaining publicly accessible charging infrastructure.

As counties continue expanding EV charging infrastructure to support residents, employees, and visitors, this limitation creates an inequity between counties and

municipalities while placing the ongoing financial responsibility solely on county taxpayers.

Providing this authority would:

- Promote the long-term financial sustainability of publicly funded EV charging infrastructure.
- Allow counties to recover electricity, operational, maintenance, network subscription, and equipment replacement costs.
- Encourage responsible use of charging stations and improve charger availability through appropriate pricing strategies.
- Create consistency between counties, cities, and towns by providing equal authority to manage publicly owned EV charging assets.
- Reduce the financial burden on taxpayers by ensuring EV charging costs are shared by the users who directly benefit from the service.
- Support North Carolina's transportation electrification goals while enabling counties to continue expanding charging infrastructure in a fiscally responsible manner.

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