



# **PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE**

## **2016 Annual Report**

**Energy Alabama**  
**(The Alabama Center for Sustainable Energy)**

[energyalabama.org](http://energyalabama.org)

## From the CEO



I have the privilege of working on one of our nation's most challenging issues and consequently, one of its largest opportunities. Energy is fundamental to almost everything we do in modern society. And because of that reality, the transition to sustainable is not easy. However, it is the challenge that excites us.

Sustainable energy is about growing our economy, creating high paying jobs, improving social outcomes and yes, keeping our shared environment clean.

In 2016, Energy Alabama undertook a strategic planning process to help us prepare for the future as an organization. Technology continues to advance at a dizzying pace and Alabama consumers are demanding more choice about where their energy comes from. This requires us to think differently about our role in the market. Our staff and our board believe education, policy, and technical assistance are the three pillars by which we can create positive change in Alabama.

2016 also saw a shift in our financial position from an organization reliant on grants to an organization in the process of diversifying its funding sources. In 2017, we are looking to diversify even further as we launch a membership program to achieve our mission. Sincere thanks to Sheila McFerran, our Director of Fund Development, for her assistance through this transition.

Going forward, we need to build capacity specifically in the strategic areas of policy and education. We are looking forward to building fruitful partnerships with organizations across the State of Alabama.

We appreciate your continued help as we march along Alabama's road to a 100% sustainable energy future. Thank you for your donations, your volunteerism, and the personal actions you take to make Energy Alabama and our state better. To continue supporting our work, please become a member by visiting <http://alcse.org/energy-alabama-friend>

Shine on!

Daniel

# 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Education

Energy Alabama engages in education to improve the community's access to factual information about sustainable energy and to work with Alabama's children to prepare them through STEM educational curricula for a world powered by sustainable energy. Our education work focuses on interactive, hands-on education with real-world technology and aims to show the opportunity of sustainable energy.

- Energy Alabama launched a new pilot program at Columbia High School in Huntsville called “Energy



Figure 1 Career Fair for Huntsville/Madison County High School Students 2016



Figure 2 Teaching at a Science Summer Camp 2016

in Action”, a 2.5 year-long program designed to activate students to achieve real energy savings in their school and in community businesses. Students learn the basics of energy management and progress through a deeper working knowledge of energy.

- Energy Alabama signed a partnership agreement (Space Act Agreement) with NASA Marshall Space Flight Center for educator resources. We develop lesson plans for sustainable energy, especially those relevant to space applications, and provide professional development for teachers.
- Energy Alabama expanded its community education efforts to included teaching courses for LearningQUEST, a program of the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library System, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and direct visits to community events and subsidized housing.

## Policy

Energy Alabama engages in policy to advance sustainable energy in local communities and ultimately our state. We work on policies that support openness and transparency in utility rates and ratemaking processes, improve equity in energy efficiency programs, remove barriers to renewable energy deployment, and give customers better access to their utility data.

- Energy Alabama intervened in a Huntsville Utilities rate increase request to advocate for more energy efficiency for lower income families. Huntsville Utilities agreed to help revamp its Project Share program to spend more resources improving the energy efficiency of homes instead of simply paying bills.
- Energy Alabama CEO Daniel Tait serves on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Energy Efficiency Information Exchange (EEIX) where utilities, consumer advocates, city governments, and environmental organizations are working together to improve energy efficiency for low income individuals across TVA’s service territory.
- Energy Alabama submitted a joint application to the Department of

Energy’s “Solar in Your Community” with Huntsville Utilities, TVA, the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and Nexus Energy Center. Together we are working to create a sustainable business model to deploy more solar to low income families and nonprofit organizations.

<h3>Getting to NetZero with Solar</h3> <p>Huntsville, AL and the Tennessee Valley Authority Region</p>		<p>Status: Accepted TA voucher: \$10,000</p>
<p>5MW in 25kW increments for LMI households, non-profits and municipal organizations.</p>		
<p><b>Main concept:</b> A modular “standardized” (non-mandatory) 25kW PV system will be developed. This system will be replicated by investors and installed onto the TVA grid. Power from these systems will then be “subscribed” to by LMI and other customers.</p>	<p><b>Team: Charger Energy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ The University of Alabama in Huntsville</li> <li>➢ Huntsville Utilities (HU)</li> <li>➢ Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)</li> <li>➢ Energy Alabama</li> <li>➢ NEXUS Energy Center</li> <li>➢ Energy Huntsville</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Innovations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TVA and HU will develop a mechanism by which LMI households can get metered credit for solar.</li> <li>• A standardized modular solar PV design will reduce the cost permitting and approval.</li> <li>• Huntsville already has multiple programs in place to improve the energy efficiency of LMI households. The next logical step is to provide these customers with solar power.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Additional Highlights:</b> Small business, investor and job training will be conducted using a modular prototype.</p>		

Figure 3 Joint Proposal to Increase Solar in Low Income Communities, 2016

## Technical Assistance

Energy Alabama provides technical assistance to help businesses and community organizations improve their energy efficiency and switch to renewable energy. Our technical assistance work focuses on overcoming barriers that typically stand in the way of improving the built environment and using our knowledge of resources to improve the underlying economics of projects.



Figure 4 Alabama Poultry Farm Solar Installation 2016

- Energy Alabama worked with local companies to install more than 500 kilowatts of solar in North Alabama, the equivalent of almost 100 homes going off the grid.
- The North Alabama Buildings Performance Challenge grew to contain more than 8,000,000 square feet of local building space committed to improving energy efficiency. The Challenge boasts participants from all sectors of the

economy, from government entities like Huntsville City Schools, non-profits like the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, and local companies like 2016 Small Business of Year Award winner Media Fusion, Inc.

- Energy Alabama held its first ever “Benchmarking Jam”, an engagement tool to help businesses and community organizations better understand how their consumption compares to similar buildings across the country. Benchmarking is the first step in the North Alabama Buildings Performance Challenge. The tool was originally developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).



Figure 5 North Alabama Buildings Performance Logo

## 2016 FUNDERS

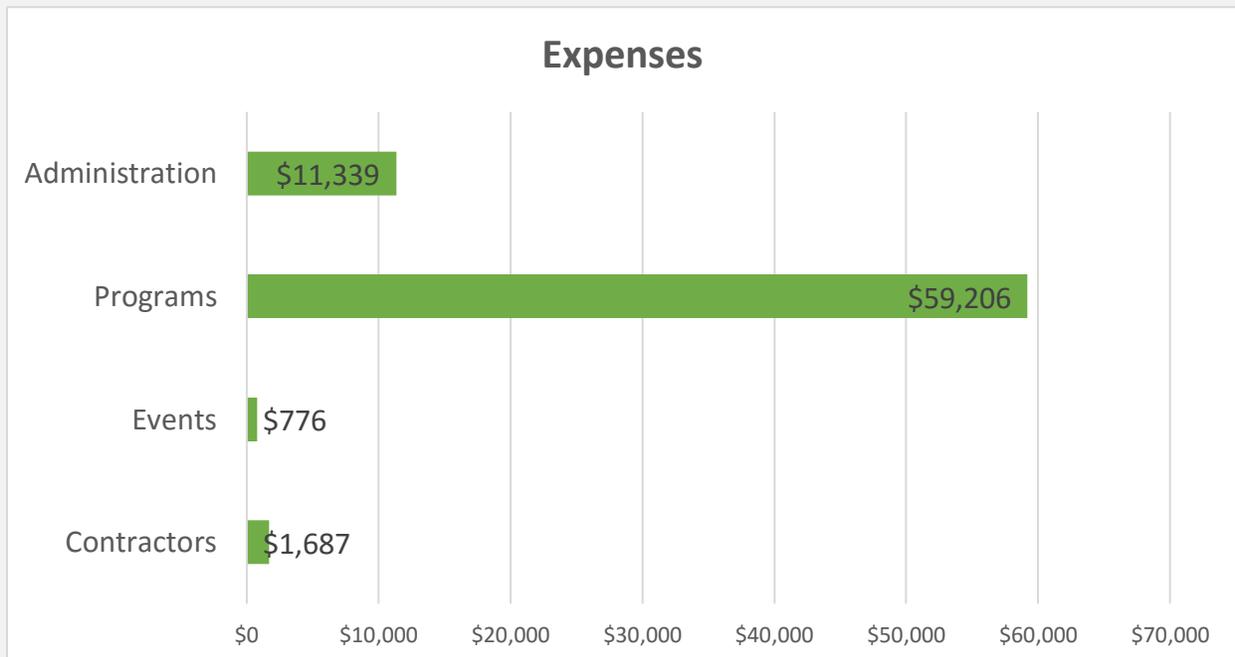
- ADDC Foundation
- AEGIS Technology Group
- Amazon Smile
- Avion Solutions
- Blue Pants Brewery
- Caring Foundation
- Clif Bar Family Foundation
- Combined Federal Campaign
- CSX Transportation
- GMR Marketing LLC
- Green Coalition of Huntsville
- Kroger
- Lightwave Solar
- Lime Green
- Lockheed Martin
- My Spirited Art
- Pieology Huntsville
- Sain Engineering
- Shaggy's Restaurants
- Texas Roadhouse
- The Daniel Foundation
- Tungsten Electric
- Whole Foods Market Huntsville

# 2016 BY THE NUMBERS

**Total Income: \$75,842**



**Total Expenses: \$73,006**



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Darryl Bird**

Bird and Kamback  
Architects



**Randy Buckner  
(Chair)**

Avion Solutions,  
Inc.



**Sheila McFerran**

Energy Alabama



**Todd Powers**

Lynn Fanning  
Elementary School



**Jack Stewart**

Independent Consultant



**Daniel Tait**

Energy Alabama



**John Whitman**

Camisary, Inc.

# ADVISORY COUNCIL



**Lyndsay Ferguson**

Huntsville/Madison  
County Chamber of  
Commerce



**Amy Goddard**

Parsons Corporation



**Kim Haynes**

Owens Cross Roads  
Elementary School



**Chris Shearburn**

Southern Solar Systems



**Raymond (Buzz) Toth**

Avion Solutions, Inc.



**Richard Williams**

Media Fusion

# VOLUNTEERS

- Olivia Buchanan
- Michael Cummings
- Amy Curtis
- Valerie Curtis
- Emily Dempsey
- Simon Gregg
- Abby Hendrie
- Sarah Kane
- Dona Pratt
- Jessie Robinson
- Hannah Shankle
- Logan Smothers
- Andrew Staiger
- Lee Waites

## STAY IN TOUCH



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Date of publication: May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Energy Alabama (The Alabama Center for Sustainable Energy)  
is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization