

Powerful Thoughts

The Power of Universities as Thought Leaders in Scaling Renewable Energy

In this case study, the George Washington University (GW) and its partners are strategically leveraging market action, education, and research to have a meaningful impact on the climate through smart financial decisions and understanding of large-scale renewable energy purchases.



Duke Energy Renewables employee at Capital Partners Solar Project in North Carolina.

Capital Partners Solar Project was the first significant aggregation of purchasers of large-scale renewable energy off-site, including GW, American U, and GWU Hospital.

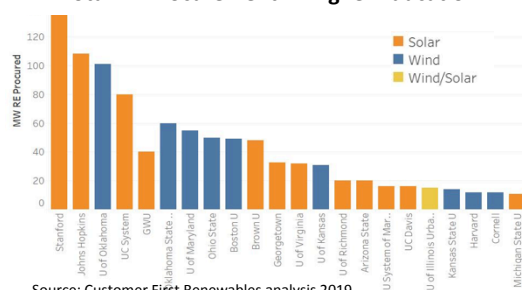
- Created in 2014 with Duke Energy Renewables
- Recognized in the market as a leading model
- GW is the anchor buyer for 53.5 MW
- ~50% of GW's electricity demand
- Project has allowed GW to meet its sustainability goals
- Resulted in better energy management and cost savings

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The higher education sector has a significant impact on the renewable energy sector as institutional buyers, AND as researchers and educators.

Total RE Procurement in Higher Education



Source: Customer First Renewables analysis 2019



GW Faculty Researchers in Duke Energy Innovation Fund: Donna Attanasio (Law School), Saniya LeBlanc and Dayo Shittu (School of Engineering & Applied Science)

Duke Energy Innovation Fund seeds research and learning around renewable and resilient energy systems.

- Inter-disciplinary research
- Leverage for additional funds
- Real world experience for students

The outcomes of GW's renewable energy purchase and fund for interdisciplinary research and teaching have resulted in the following outcomes for climate change:

- Demonstrate new market solutions
- Influence policy makers
- Students learn innovative solutions
- Experts break disciplinary barriers
- Platform for additional research funding



View of Capital Partners Solar Project in North Carolina.

