



CONNECTIONS SUMMIT

◆ ELECTRICITIES

**Driving Growth Through Innovation
Economic Development Strategies Powering
NC Communities**

Featuring 2025 Economic Excellence Award-Winning Projects

Welcome

- **Meet the Panelists**
- **Key themes**
- **Project Highlights**
- **Q&A/Final Thoughts**
- **2026 Economic Excellence Awards Update**

City of Albemarle

**2025 Innovation in Economic
Development Award Winner**

Downtown Catalyst Grant Program

- **Launched in 2021 to stimulate private investment downtown**
- **Matching grants up to \$25,000 for:**
 - Façade restoration
 - Code compliance upgrades
 - Interior renovations
- **Part of a broader downtown revitalization strategy**
- **10 grants awarded totaling \$250,000**
- **Leveraged over \$2.5 million in private investment**
- **Resulted in new businesses, job creation, increased foot traffic**
- **Preserves historic structures and strengthens downtown vitality**

Downtown Albemarle



Greenville Utilities Commission

2025 Innovation in Economic Development Award Runner-Up

Project Bluefin

- **Nipro selects Greenville-Pitt County for its first North American Manufacturing Center of Excellence**
- **~\$398 million capital investment**
- **232–242 new jobs over five years**
- **Average salary: \$56,147**
- **550,000 sq. ft. advanced manufacturing facility**
- **Strong workforce pipeline via Pitt Community College biotech program**
- **Significant collaboration across local, regional, and state partners**

Nipro Groundbreaking Event



City of Lumberton

2025 Collaboration in Economic Development Award Winner

Southeast Crossroads Industrial Park

- **Industrial site readiness initiative**
- **Infrastructure improvements led by the City, including:**
 - Road access
 - Water and sewer extensions
 - Electric service upgrades
- **Collaboration between:**
 - City of Lumberton, Utilities, County government, Regional economic development organizations
- **Increased competitiveness for industrial prospects**
- **Designed to drive future:**
 - Private investment
 - Job creation
 - Electric load growth

Southeast Crossroads Industrial Park



Economic Excellence Awards

About the Awards

- **A recognition program honoring economic development initiatives that strengthen local economies and increase community competitiveness in public power communities**



Share best practices

Showcase ideas other communities can replicate



Celebrate what's working

Highlight successful local projects of all sizes



Build momentum for future investment

Recognize efforts that prepare communities for growth

Award Categories

Innovation in Economic Development

- Creative incentive programs
- Technology-driven site or community marketing
- New approaches to business attraction

Horizons in Economic Development

- Long-range planning efforts
- Workforce pipeline development
- Sustainability or diversification strategies

Collaborative Impact in Economic Development

- Utility + local government partnerships
- Regional or multi-jurisdictional projects
- Public-private collaborations

All categories align with public power values and ElectriCities' economic development priorities.

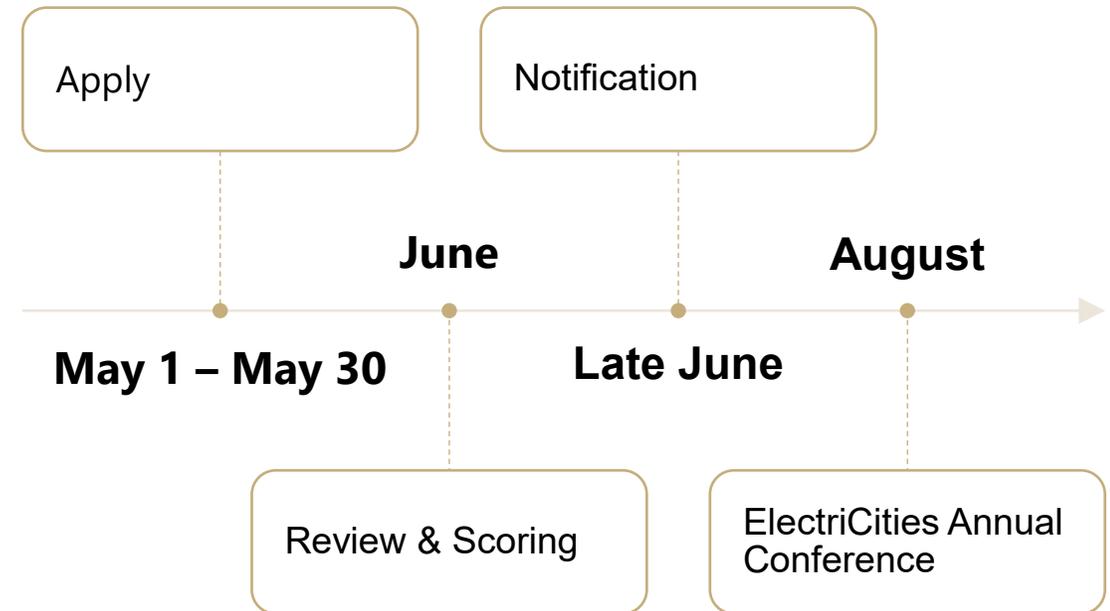
Awards Process Timeline

Eligibility

- Project completed within the past 12 months
- Multiple category submissions allowed
- Projects submitted to other award programs may be reused

Why Apply?

- Statewide recognition from ElectriCities
- Custom award trophy presented publicly
- Marketing & press exposure, including Business North Carolina feature



For more information, email: aboone@electricities.org

Q&A / Final Thoughts

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