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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **The Produce Box Receives Clean Fuel Advanced Technology Project Funding** *\$30,880 awarded for propane fleet conversion*

**RALEIGH, N.C. – July 14, 2015** – [The Produce Box](http://theproducebox.com), a North Carolina-based company that delivers fresh and local produce to members' doorsteps weekly, has recently been awarded funding through the [Clean Fuel Advanced Technology \(CFAT\) project](#) to convert six of the company's fleet vehicles to operate using propane instead of gasoline. The Produce Box was awarded \$30,880 from the N.C. Clean Energy Technology Center at N.C. State University with federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality funding provided from the N.C. Department of Transportation. Full fleet conversion is anticipated to be complete by the end of the 2015.

The CFAT project focuses on improving air quality in the 24 North Carolina counties that are in non-attainment or maintenance status for national air quality standards. The project centers around three primary activities: education and outreach, emission reduction sub-awards and recognition of exemplary efforts among fleets and organizations that implement clean transportation-related policies and practices.

"Today's propane is a more advanced fuel than the propane from the 1970s and 1980s. Its ability to burn cleaner than gasoline is one of the many eco-friendly benefits that makes propane gas one of the most widely used alternative fuels," said Kevin O'Connell, The Produce Box director of operations. "With the help of this grant, we are able to further reduce our carbon footprint in the environment while continuing to support farmers and deliver to members all across the state. The more local we keep our food supply, the smaller our environmental impact and that of our members."

The Produce Box works with local farmers to deliver fresh and healthy produce to residents across the state of North Carolina. The propane-converted fleet is a vital asset to the company and its network of more than 50 farmers and 90 artisan food businesses located in the Triangle, Wilmington, Charlotte and the Triad.

#### **About The Produce Box**

Founded in 2006, The Produce Box delivers farm-grown fresh fruit and vegetables as well as local meats and NC-produced specialty items to families, companies and community organizations across the state. The company has no contracts or long-term commitments and offers a wide variety of options for members to choose for weekly deliveries. Stay-at-home moms and dads act as coordinators in the neighborhoods they live in. TPB is proud to pay its 50 farm partners a sustainable price upon delivery (rather than 30-60 days out) to provide stability

and support for these hard-working NC farmers. The Produce Box also partners with local schools and organizations like Backpack Buddies and Inter-Faith Food Shuttle to give back to the communities it serves.

**About the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center**

The North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center, as part of the College of Engineering at North Carolina State University, advances a sustainable energy economy by educating, demonstrating and providing support for clean energy technologies, practices, and policies. It serves as a resource for innovative, green energy technologies through technology demonstration, technical assistance, outreach and training. For more information about the Center, visit: <http://nccleantech.ncsu.edu>. Twitter: @NCCleanTech

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