The NC Policy Collaboratory was established in the summer of 2016 by the North Carolina General Assembly for the purpose of disseminating the policy and research expertise of the University of North Carolina System for practical use by state and local government.

The Collaboratory is a unique, first-of-its-kind model that provides the necessary link between science and policy.

The Collaboratory focuses on projects across the State to better understand the environmental and economic components associated with managing North Carolina’s vast natural resources. From wildfire mitigation in the mountains to oyster restoration along the coast, these projects seek to explore new technologies and concepts for improving the environment, economy and people of North Carolina.

The Collaboratory has been directed to develop and disseminate relevant best practices to interested parties, lead and participate in projects across the State related to natural resources management and is authorized to make policy recommendations directly to the General Assembly.

A collaboratory is a laboratory without walls in which faculty, staff and students can perform their research without regard to physical location. This helps facilitate collaborative interaction across the UNC System, providing greater access to expert personnel, analytical instrumentation, data and computational resources.
Collaboratory research depicted represents more than $4M in research funding. Research budget totals from FY 16-17 projected through FY 18-19 include direct funding by the NCGA, external fundraising and utilization of NCGA challenge grant.