



## DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS' PROPOSAL TO INCREASE HOUSEHOLD ELECTRIC BILLS:

### Talking Points & Overview

#### **Key Message:**

All North Carolinians deserve access to affordable, clean energy. The North Carolina Utilities Commission must protect our state's most vulnerable communities from this corporate money grab.

#### **Background:**

Duke Energy Carolinas [is attempting](#) to raise our energy rates by nearly 17%. The NC Utilities Commission (NCUC), which must approve any rate hikes, is seeking public feedback on Duke Energy's plan to raise energy bills. On June 22nd the NCUC will hold a public hearing in Charlotte on the proposed rate hikes. [All community members are invited to attend the hearing](#) and/or give verbal comments. [You can sign up to attend the hearing here.](#)

#### **Talking Points:**

- If approved by the NCUC, residential energy rates will increase by nearly 17% over the next three years.
- That means a typical household using 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month would end up paying almost \$20 more each month; by 2026, the average annual residential electric bill would be \$240 higher than it is today.

- The increase would disproportionately impact low-income households, requiring them to spend more of their income on electricity than those with higher incomes.
  - ◊ A person making minimum wage would have to work an additional 2 weeks to cover the added costs to their energy bills.
- Many North Carolina households are already struggling to make ends meet, and cannot afford higher energy bills.
  - ◊ Low-income and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities often already have a higher energy burden. This rate hike is only going to worsen their financial strain.
  - ◊ This also creates a burden on older residents with fixed incomes.
- Small businesses will also be impacted. If approved, rates for commercial and industrial customers would increase by 15.2% and 12.1%, respectively.
  - ◊ Why are rates for families and households increasing more than business rates are?
- Buried deep in their proposal, Duke Energy is also attempting to reduce the value of solar energy systems for businesses, faith organizations, local governments, and non-profits. Such major changes require a full and open discussion in a separate docket.
- Duke Energy needs to stop propping up outdated and expensive dirty energies, and instead invest in clean, renewable energy.
  - ◊ Duke Energy argues fracked gas is more affordable than renewable energy. How can they make this claim as they raise household energy rates to cover their increasing fossil fuel costs?

## **How To Get Involved:**

### ***Share Your Story***

Share how a rate increase would impact you or others you know. Sample social media language could include:

- “Stop Duke Energy’s Money Grab.”
- “Don’t let Duke Energy raise our electric bills.”

## *Attend the Upcoming Public Hearing*

Let's pack the room in Charlotte to show we support energy affordability for all North Carolina households.

### **Public Hearing: Duke Energy Rate Hikes**

Thursday, June 22nd at 7:00pm

Mecklenburg County Courthouse

Courtroom 5350

832 E. 4th Street, Charlotte, NC 28202

[Sign Up to Attend](#)

If you are interested in providing verbal testimony or comments, you can find information on how to sign up and give public witness testimony below.

#### ***Submit Comments***

If you cannot attend the public hearing, you can submit written comments either online or via mail.

The NCUC will accept written comment submissions through August. If you would like your comments to be read into the record at the June 22nd hearing, you must submit them 10 – 14 calendar days prior to the hearing.

To submit your comments online, follow the link [ncuc.gov/contactus.html](https://ncuc.gov/contactus.html). ***Be sure to include 'Docket No. E-7 Sub 1276' in your subject line.***

Comments can also be mailed to the NC Utilities Commission at 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4300. ***Be sure to include 'Docket No. E-7 Sub 1276' in your comments.***

#### **How To Give Public Witness Testimony:**

1. Weapons are strictly prohibited at Commission hearings, and everyone entering the building must pass through a metal detector.

2. Witnesses must register their name on a sign-up sheet in the hearing room prior to their testimony.
3. After calling the hearing to order, the presiding Commissioner or Examiner shall outline the procedure to be followed for testimony and shall establish hearing room decorum standards.
4. Witnesses will be called according to the order of registration on the sign-up sheet. The presiding Commissioner or Examiner reserves the right to re-order the witnesses in order to provide the Commission with a full spectrum of opinions and ideas.
5. Each witness shall state their name, address, and (if applicable) any association they represent at the time of their testimony. The presiding Commissioner or Examiner may limit the scope of the testimony to matters specified in the notice of public hearing. The presiding Commissioner will require each witness to be sworn in before beginning their testimony.
6. To allow each witness an equal amount of time to testify or to prevent cumulative, repetitive, irrelevant or unnecessary testimony, the presiding Commissioner or Examiner may establish time limits for the presentation of testimony within their discretion and may limit testimony to five minutes or less per witness.
7. Any witness testifying may extend their remarks in written form, but written testimony must be submitted at the time of his or her oral testimony at the public hearing. Any witness may submit written testimony in lieu of oral testimony, but any written testimony must be submitted by the witness during the public hearing and subject to cross-examination.
8. To allow all witnesses to be heard and properly transcribed, the presiding Commissioner or Examiner shall have the right to instruct the removal of any member of the audience attempting to participate either verbally or visually during testimony. Members of the audience shall not bring signs or placards into the hearing room.
9. The presiding Commissioner/Examiner may modify the rules for public witness testimony.