



Duke Energy  
525 South Tryon Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202

Dear Mr. Sideris and Board Members,

We write to you today as committed environmental organizations, concerned ratepayers, and residents across North Carolina who are deeply invested in the state's energy future and affordability.

We recognize Duke Energy's stated dedication to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and your leadership in the ongoing clean energy transition. It is precisely because we share the goal of a sustainable, resilient, and prosperous North Carolina that we urge you to substantially revise the recently filed 2025 Carbon Plan and Integrated Resource Plan of Duke Energy Carolinas LLC and Duke Energy Progress LLC.

The current proposal, while incremental, relies heavily on extending the life of polluting fossil fuels while limiting the near-term growth of cleaner renewables, building new infrastructure with lifespans outside the limits required in House Bill 951 and omitting wind energy entirely. This directly contradicts the message of [climate leadership](#) you convey to shareholders and customers.

Building new, long-lived fossil fuel infrastructure also creates a high risk of stranded assets as the global economy continues to pivot away from gas and coal.<sup>1</sup> Delaying investments in clean energy will place an immense financial burden on both Duke Energy and your customers, as shown by an independent analysis from NC State University last year.<sup>2</sup>

An accelerated plan instead places Duke Energy as a leader in the coming clean energy economy. As one of America's largest energy holding companies, serving an estimated 3.8 million customers in North Carolina,<sup>3</sup> Duke Energy sits in a unique

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.renewableinstitute.org/91-of-new-renewables-now-cheaper-than-fossil-fuels/>.

<sup>2</sup> NC Newslines, NCSU analysts: Duke Energy bill lifting carbon reduction goal will cost households billions, July 1, 2025, <https://ncnewslines.com/2025/07/01/ncsu-analysts-duke-energy-bill-lifting-carbon-reduction-goal-will-cost-households-billions/>

<sup>3</sup> Duke Energy, About Us, November 20, 2025, <https://www.duke-energy.com/our-company/about-us>. <https://www.duke-energy.com/-/media/pdfs/our-company/duke-energy-fast-facts.pdf?rev=ac88e76e789143f889da16ba486d0219>.



position to lead with solutions that protect public health, provide affordable energy at the lowest and most reasonable cost, be transparent with your customers, and reduce carbon emissions as mandated by statutory authority.

CleanAIRE NC recently conducted a community utility survey to gather feedback on what North Carolinians are experiencing. Out of the 83% Duke Energy customers, 69% indicated they saw an increase in their energy bills over the past year alone. 45% of the respondents have been significantly impacted by the increases, forcing customers to make difficult financial decisions (such as affording groceries, postponing payments on other bills, or how to budget their household on a fixed income). When respondents were asked what they think contributes to rising utility costs, most attributed it to weather extremes, data centers and the reliance on expensive fuel. Customers should be a partner in building a cleaner and more affordable energy future in North Carolina. We respectfully urge Duke Energy to strengthen the Carbon Plan in the following ways:

1. **Prioritize construction of renewables over fossil fuel generation.** Duke Energy should further expand investment in solar power, battery storage, and utility-scale wind. These energy sources reduce long-term fuel costs while increasing grid resilience. Renewables also offer cleaner air for communities across the state, improving public health.
2. **Improve transparency on customer bills.** We ask Duke Energy to include a clear line item on household utility bills that identifies how much customers pay toward fuel costs and how much they contribute to the construction of power plants. The customers of North Carolina deserve transparency on what they are paying for and where that money is going. This encourages trust between customers and the company.
3. **Make the stakeholder engagement process more inclusive, accessible, and meaningful.** Duke Energy highlights their general stakeholder meetings as a vital process for being a responsive community partner.<sup>4</sup> However, these meetings are typically held on weekdays during working hours,<sup>5</sup> preventing many customers from meaningfully participating. In addition, public participants (non-

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<sup>4</sup> Duke Energy, 2025 Carolinas Resource Plan, Docket E-100, Sub 207, Carbon Plan, Appendix A: Stakeholder Engagement, pg. 1, October 1, 2025, <https://starw1.ncuc.gov/NCUC/ViewFile.aspx?Id=6ab206ab-72af-4d59-ab00-4d5da6336fdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Duke Energy, 2025 Carolinas Resource Plan, Docket E-100, Sub 207, Carbon Plan, Appendix A: Stakeholder Engagement, pg. 2, October 1, 2025, <https://starw1.ncuc.gov/NCUC/ViewFile.aspx?Id=6ab206ab-72af-4d59-ab00-4d5da6336fdf>.



technical representatives) are often muted at these meetings and can only ask questions through the chat feature. This means public participants cannot really provide new ideas, but instead only ask questions. Finally, there is no way to confirm if all questions are acknowledged or answered, which limits constructive dialogue and transparency. Therefore, CleanAIRE NC recommends the following improvements to help make the process more equitable:

- Offer meetings at a variety of times, including evenings and weekends.
- Make sure that all questions submitted by participants receive acknowledgment and follow-up responses.
- Hold stakeholder meetings specifically for and promoted to underserved communities and those disproportionately affected by energy decisions.
- Ensure meaningful Utility Commission presence at all stakeholder meetings by establishing a rotating attendance schedule among the NC Utility Commissioners. Having at least one Commissioner participate in each meeting, on a rotating basis. This will provide the Commissioners with a complete understanding of community sentiments and strengthen public trust.
- Publish clear summaries of all stakeholder feedback after each meeting and explain how feedback was or was not incorporated into the Carbon Plan.

CleanAIRE NC is committed to working with Duke Energy and all stakeholders to develop a Carbon Plan that is transparent, equitable, and aligned with North Carolina's climate and public health goals.

Sincerely,

*YOUR NAME*