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10 PRINCIPLES

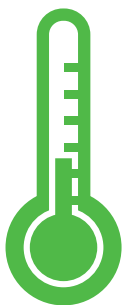
for

DUKE'S INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Every two years Duke Energy Progress and Duke Energy Carolinas develop an integrated resource plan (IRP) that lays out a resource roadmap for the next 15 years. The plans include anticipated customer electricity demand and the utilities' proposed approach to meet those needs. The plans are submitted for approval to both the North Carolina Utilities Commission and the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. The IRP process is a good chance for the public to let the commissioners know what they want to see from their utilities. Below are principles of what Duke's IRPs in the public's interest would include.

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1. GET REAL WITH CLIMATE GOALS

[North Carolina's Clean Energy Plan](#) aims to reduce the electric power sector's greenhouse gas emissions to 70% below 2005 levels by 2030 and attain carbon neutrality by 2050. This aligns with climate [goals that cities and counties across the state have made](#). Duke also announced its own voluntary commitment to a net-zero carbon energy system by 2050. But Duke still argues that, between now and then, it needs to add more polluting fracked gas generation to its grid. For Duke, "net zero" is just another way of saying "not zero." **Duke's plans should adhere to North Carolina's climate goals of 70% greenhouse gas reduction by 2030 and entirely eliminate fossil fuels from its fleet by 2050.**



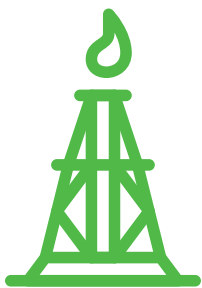
2. AFFORDABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

In this time of COVID-19, [over 900,000 North and South Carolinians are unemployed](#), and countless households are facing unprecedented hardship. But even before the current crisis, energy was unaffordable for one in three households in the United States and over a million households in North Carolina. **Duke should prioritize cost-saving measures like energy efficiency and demand response to reduce customers' energy burdens, and they should provide arrearage forgiveness and management plans to all customers facing utility debt.**



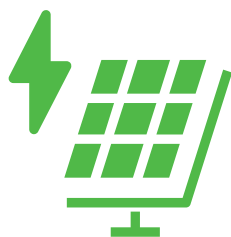
3. DITCH COAL

Duke's six coal plants have long been uneconomic. When Duke runs these plants, they make energy unnecessarily more expensive and [disproportionately pollute the air and water in communities of color and low-wealth communities](#). Duke's coal plants expose vulnerable populations to coal ash pollution, which [causes cancer and can damage the nervous system, heart, lungs, kidneys and more](#). The North Carolina Utilities Commission has already directed Duke to present an alternative where existing coal-fired generating units are "[retired by the earliest practicable date](#)." **Duke's IRPs should accelerate retirement of all coal plants; close half of its coal fleet by 2025; achieve coal-free energy by 2030; and include support for just, community-led transition plans for coal plant communities.**



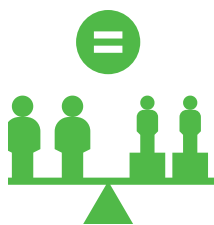
4. NO NEW GAS

If Duke continues to build fossil fuel generation, ratepayers will be paying more for dirtier energy. [Research has shown](#) that investing in clean energy is cheaper than building new gas plants, and it will soon be lower cost than *operating* existing gas plants. A [Duke executive admitted](#) this when they said they wanted customers to pay off gas plants early—and pay higher costs. **Duke needs to stop all new gas investments and quantify and minimize the risk of stranded assets on their system.**



5. GO BIG ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

Solar is not only the clean choice, but it is now the [most cost-effective energy supply choice](#). A [recent study](#) showed that the Carolinas could boost renewable energy to 66% in North Carolina and 57% in South Carolina by 2035--all while decreasing costs to ratepayers. Plus we know that investing in homegrown clean energy boosts the economy, provides [cash to landowners](#), and [creates local jobs](#). **Duke should be all-in on solar and other renewable sources, achieving at least 55% renewable energy by 2035.**



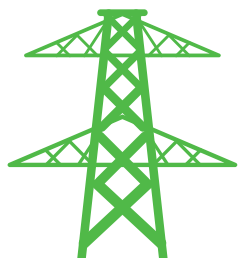
6. ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CLEAN ENERGY

Any resource plan should ensure that all families have equitable access to clean air, economic opportunity, and more affordable electric bills. Duke's Green Source Advantage (GSA) and current community solar programs require participants to pay a premium for solar energy, and GSA is only available to large commercial customers. **Duke's plans must break down barriers to clean energy for low-income households, offering comprehensive home energy efficiency upgrades and cost-saving community solar programs.**



7. EMBRACE MARKET COMPETITION

[Recent research](#) shows regional market competition could reduce electric rates for Southeast customers by 23%, saving \$384 billion by 2040, or \$17 billion per year. Any new power generation should be acquired through a technology-neutral competitive process that transparently weighs costs and benefits and considers all alternatives including energy efficiency and demand response. This will ensure ratepayers are getting the lowest cost energy, regardless of the power source. **Duke should pursue all new generation assets through a transparent, competitive process that includes all alternatives.**



8. DO GRID MODERNIZATION RIGHT

Duke's last IRP update ignored the reality that customer-sited renewables and energy storage can contribute to a cleaner, more resilient, and more economical grid, as [the “virtual power plant” created by thousands of solar + storage ratepayers operated by Sunrun in California shows](#). Utilities around the country—including those in Arizona, Florida, and Nevada—[offer rebates](#) to customers for storage systems. With Duke proposing major updates to the grid and operations through its Grid Improvement Plan and Integrated System & Operations Planning, now is the time to expand the role of clean, distributed resources. **Duke needs to tap into customers' distributed energy resources in its energy plan and allow customer-sited solar and storage systems to participate as a resource.**



9. DON'T RELY ON IMAGINARY TECHNOLOGY

In Duke's 2020 climate report, they coin a new term—“ZELFR”—to describe an imaginary, zero-emissions, on-demand energy source that they claim they need in order to decarbonize the grid. However, ZELFRs seem to be nothing more than a way for Duke to continue to operate a fossil-heavy grid while waiting for a unicorn technology. We know [we can reduce carbon emissions with the technologies we have already](#). Duke's IRPs cannot rely on hypothetical technologies; we already have the tools we need to stop carbon pollution.



10. NO LOBBYING AGAINST THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Amidst the COVID pandemic, [a utility front group tried to kill rooftop solar](#) at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). And the even more recent [\\$60 million bribery scandal from First Energy in Ohio](#) has shown that there's little utility companies won't do to get what is best for their bottom line. **Duke should not be allowed to fund shadowy groups to lobby against the public interest and the climate.**

these principles are

ENDORSED BY



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