



## Ask NC Utilities Commission to Reject Duke Energy's 2019 IRP

### The Problem

The 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) submitted by Duke Energy to the North Carolina Utilities Commission calls for adding only token renewable energy capacity, while building many more natural gas plants. An IRP with higher energy efficiency, and more solar and wind energy, could save ratepayers billions of dollars, avoid or defer the need for new gas-fired power plants and enable accelerated retirement of coal units, reduce air pollution, and align North Carolina with the rapidly growing movement to stop global climate change by drastically changing the sources of electric power.

**Bottom line:** When it comes to global climate change, Duke Energy appears content to continue being part of the problem, instead of becoming part of the solution. We have until April 15, 2019 to submit comments asking the Utilities Commission to reject Duke's IRP and hold an evidentiary hearing.

### What's in Duke's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan?

According to [North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association's \(NCSEA\) Initial Comments](#) submitted to the North Carolina Utilities Commission on March 7, 2019:

- Duke's IRPs call for an additional build out of over 9,000 MW of new natural gas plants, but less than 5,000 MW of new renewables (namely solar PV and battery storage), from 2019 to 2033.
- Duke's projected 2033 resource capacity mix includes 56% (27 GW) fossil fuels, nearly equal to its 2019 resource proportion, and just 23% renewables (11 GW).
- Duke's proposed IRPs add renewables barely beyond minimum legislative requirements.
- According to calculations by NCSEA, Duke Power will emit almost 50 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually under this IRP.
- A higher proportion of renewables, along with removal of "must-run" designations for Duke's coal-fired power plants, could cut Duke's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to just under 30 million tons a year.
- A higher proportion of renewables would also cut Duke's total production costs by \$1.5 billion.

**Bottom line:** Duke's 2019 IRP maintains Duke's current resource capacity mix: fossil fuels at 56%, more than double the 23% renewables in the mix.



**Reasons to oppose Duke’s IRP and ask for a hearing:**

- Duke’s Plan calls for adding only token renewable energy plus storage and, instead, calls for building many more natural gas plants.
- Higher levels of energy efficiency, wind energy, and solar energy could avoid or defer the need for new gas-fired power plants and enable accelerated retirement of coal units.
- A resource portfolio with higher levels of energy efficiency, solar energy, and wind energy could save ratepayers billions of dollars, with the added benefit of reduced air pollution from gas- and coal-fired power plants.
- Attorney General Josh Stein has called for more solar-with-storage and pointed out that raw methane emissions from natural gas are contributing to climate disasters "which have real costs that are ultimately borne by ratepayers."
- Duke’s 2019 IRP is a clear departure from the efforts of most states and cities around the country to promote quicker adoption of renewable energy. If they can do it, why can’t we?

Two states have already set goals of 100% renewable electricity: Hawaii ‘s goal is 100% renewable electricity by 2045. The second state is California, with a goal of 100% renewable electricity by 2045. In February 2019, Washington, DC committed to achieve 100% renewable electricity, by 2032

In addition, at least 100 cities in the United States have adopted firm goals of achieving 100% clean, renewable electricity by a specific future date, including:

Atlanta, GA - 2035	Evanston, IL - 2030	San Jose, CA - 2050
Augusta, GA - 2050	Kansas City, MO	Santa Barbara CA - 2030
Boulder City, CO - 2030	Madison, WI - 2050	Santa Monica, CA - 2019
Cincinnati, OH - 2035	Minneapolis, MN - 2030	Sarasota FL - 2045
Cleveland, OH - 2050	Orlando, Florida - 2050	Spokane, WA - 2030
Columbia, SC - 2036	Portland, Oregon - 2035	St. Louis, MO - 2035
Denver, CO - 2030	Salt Lake City, Utah - 2032	St Paul, MN - 2030
Eau Claire, WI - 2050	San Diego, CA - 2035	St. Petersburg, FL
Eureka, CA - 2025	San Francisco, CA - 2030	Tallahassee, FL - 2050

And in North Carolina, Buncombe County, is committed to 100% renewable energy by 2030; Wake County and Orange County to 100% renewable by 2050; Apex, NC and Hillsborough, NC to 100% renewable by 2050. [Source: Sierra Club, [100% Commitments in Cities, Counties, & States](#)]

**How to Submit a comment to NC Utilities Commission**

- Submit to: <https://www.ncuc.net/contactus.html>
- In the subject line mention **Docket #E-100 Sub 157**
- Submit by April 15, 2019