

... a scheme to keep building climate-wrecking power plants while doubling our electric rates

Duke Energy's third rate hike in the Carolinas since 2009 would boost average residential rates by 13.9% and 8.2 to 9.8% for small businesses, while already low rates for many large industrial corporations would increase by only 3%.

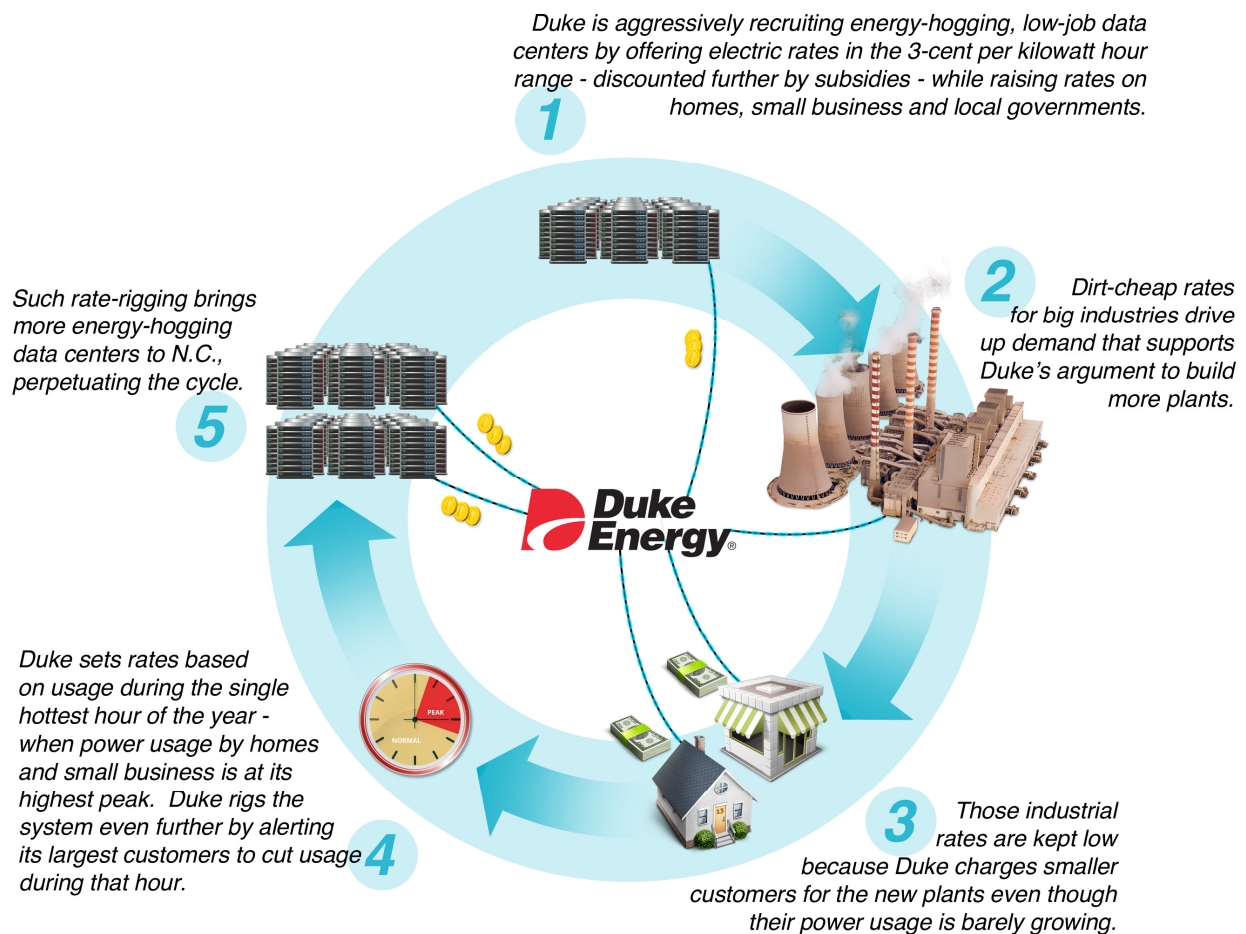
This plan will affect businesses two-fold – with increased power bills and a potential decrease in sales as customers are also forced to pay higher bills at home.

NC WARN is intervening in Duke's rate case before the Utilities Commission. We are demanding disclosure of documents related to a rate-rigging scheme that we exposed.

Duke is selling juice to data centers (aka server farms) and other large users at dirt-cheap rates by shifting the costs of new power plants onto smaller customers. This scheme is economy-busting and climate-wrecking. It drives up demand for nuclear and fracking-gas power plants that otherwise would not be needed.

But public pressure helps! In April, the NC Supreme Court rejected Duke's 2012 rate hike – at least for now – after public opposition led Attorney General Roy Cooper to intervene.

Here's how Duke's rate-rigging scheme works:



More on Duke Energy's rip-off:

NC WARN is exposing Duke's rigging of rates against those who can least afford it: families, small businesses and local governments. The burden on schools and local governments will likely be passed on through higher taxes.

If successful, Duke's latest hike would bring household rates to a level 30% higher than in 2009. That trend will continue if politically appointed utilities commissioners let Duke keep financing its dirty-energy growth model on the backs of smaller customers.

With monopoly control over its customers, Duke is seeking a guaranteed profit of

11.25% – a return that far exceeds market levels.

Data centers and other industrial users pay one-third the price for power that families and small businesses do. And Duke has a 26-member "solicitation team" – that we pay for – just to recruit these large electricity users into its territory.

Do we really want a state filled with giant data centers that generate fewer jobs than your local coffee shop but drive Duke's plans to build new power plants whose costs are forced on the rest of us? That future is unfolding right now – unless we stop it.

"Stabilizing the climate is a battle for survival that needs everyone involved."

— Dr. James Hansen

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1) TELL N.C. UTILITIES COMMISSION CHAIR ED FINLEY you don't want to pay higher rates to fund more climate-wrecking power plants we don't even need: statements@ncuc.net

2) ATTEND PUBLIC HEARINGS on the Duke rate hikes:

May 21, Franklin

May 22, Marion

June 19, Winston-Salem

June 26, Charlotte

July 2, Hillsborough

July 8, Raleigh (evidentiary hearing)

3) WORK WITH NC WARN AND ALLIES

Climate change is very close to moving past a point of no return – and accelerating under its own momentum no matter what humans do.

Other states are moving ahead. NC WARN is pressing Duke Energy in every way possible to join the clean energy revolution – or at least stop impeding it – and help avert climate-economic-social chaos.

Duke is now the world's second largest power corporation. Its shift to clean electricity could pull the other industry laggards into the 21st Century.

See more about our grassroots and legal work at www.ncwarn.org. Become a member. Work with other committed people to create a fair, clean energy future.