



**BUILDING PEOPLE POWER FOR
ENERGY & CLIMATE JUSTICE**

DUKE ENERGY INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN (IRP)

Public hearing:

Monday, February 4, 2019, 7pm
Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building
430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh

Public comments can be emailed to statements@ncuc.net
(mention Docket #E-100 Sub 157 in the subject line)

Links to full North Carolina IRP proposals submitted to NC Utilities Commission:

[Duke Energy Carolinas](#)

[Duke Energy Progress](#)

Talking Points

Duke Energy's IRP case before the Utilities Commission is crucial. It sets the stage for 15 years of repeated rate hikes and massive expansion of climate-wrecking fracked gas.

Climate change is urgent

- The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says we must cut annual global greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030. Prominent [scientists say](#) this means emissions must peak and start downward by 2020.
- Millions of people are already being harmed by severe weather and sea level rise.

Natural gas is driving the climate crisis

- Natural gas is methane and a lot of it is leaked or intentionally vented at many points from well to power plant.
- Since methane is 100 times more potent than carbon dioxide, these emissions of unburned methane make gas [even worse for the climate than coal](#).

January 2018

Duke Energy plans a massive fracked gas expansion and minimal renewables

- Duke's IRP projects the equivalent of 24 new, large gas-burning power plants and only 8% renewables by 2033. [Other utilities](#) are already at 30% renewables or more.

There is a cleaner, cheaper way

- Solar combined with battery storage is already cheaper than natural gas in many places, and those prices continue to drop. New gas plants built now will become stranded assets – and Duke customers will be stuck paying the bill.
- CEO Lynn Good has promised Duke shareholders “[multiple rate cases](#)” (rate hikes) beginning this year to fund gas plants and coal ash clean-up. Duke's unneeded \$13 billion “grid improvement” scheme alone could [raise residential rates up to 50 percent](#).
- If the Utilities Commission approves Duke's IRP as proposed, it gives Duke ammunition when it requests those rate hikes. Two rate hikes requests have already been announced for later this year.
- Duke has been blocking cheaper, cleaner renewable energy, while trying to appear green in its advertising.

The Commission has the authority to demand more from Duke

- Duke Energy operates as a monopoly in North Carolina. The Commission's job is to tell Duke how to operate.
- Other state utility commissions are taking action. Virginia recently rejected Dominion Resources' IRP. The California utilities commission rejected PG&E proposals for new natural gas plants in favor of cheaper solar-plus-storage.

We have no time to waste on business-as-usual. We must do everything in our power to reduce methane emissions immediately and to keep electricity affordable.

There are [no economic or technical barriers](#) to the kind of transition required by the climate crisis. The only barrier is political. Duke Energy executives are out of touch with the climate science, out of touch with customers' needs and out of touch with their corporate responsibilities. The Commission must reject Duke Energy's archaic and expensive energy generation plan.