

**From:** Jim Warren  
**Sent:** Friday, December 15, 2017 11:35 AM  
**To:** Vincent Price, Ph.D.  
**Cc:** Tallman Trask; Nancy Metzloff; Jeff Vincent, Ph.D.  
**Subject:** RE: Updated info regarding CHP project

Dear President Price,

Thanks for your reply. I'm confused, however, because you made no mention of seeking off-campus input regarding the energy choices that certainly have physical and economic impacts on the broader community.

The University's pledge to create an open stakeholder process was well publicized last April, and we were told that key members of the on-campus committee had been charged with leading an effort over the summer to develop a fair and open process that included off-campus community members. Also, in October, I understand that Tim Profeta told the Durham Environmental Affairs Board that the University had hired a public relations pro to lead such a process.

Please tell me that you still plan to have a broad, constructive process that respects the voices of the Durham community and other interested stakeholders regarding the University's future energy plans, local impacts and climate commitments.

As I'm sure you have heard, last spring University officials admitted that the earlier process was flawed, and it led to a growing level of frustration and acrimony among many parties, particularly Durham residents. I, for one, am keenly eager to avoid a return to that disharmony. Equally important is that opening up the process can allow for input from a number of experienced individuals including energy experts who can be invaluable in helping the University craft a path forward that optimizes campus needs and establishes Duke University as a true leader in humanity's increasingly desperate struggle to slow the climate crisis before it reaches a point of no return. These can include NC WARN consultant Bill Powers, a Duke University-trained engineer who has become a prominent expert on utility operations and renewable energy. And I understand that Amory Lovins has also offered to help.

Finally, I feel confident that a transparent, community-inclusive process will be supported by Durham's new mayor, Steve Schewel, and the city council, many of whom have assertively demonstrated their support for open, transparent process on a number of thorny issues over the years.

I look forward to working with you.

Jim

PS. I must add that, from my view based on continuing interest in the swine waste tragedy, finding just solutions seems to remain years away despite what is often

misleading information by waste-to-energy proponents. This is all the more reason for the University to seek optimal expertise regarding the path forward for campus energy needs.

*Jim Warren, Executive Director*

**From:** Vincent Price, Ph.D. [<mailto:president@duke.edu>]

**Sent:** Friday, December 15, 2017 9:52 AM

**To:** Jim Warren

**Cc:** Tallman Trask; Nancy Metzloff; Jeff Vincent, Ph.D.

**Subject:** Re: Updated info regarding CHP project

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your letter and report regarding the proposed Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant at Duke. I appreciate your insights on this complex issue and your support for Duke University's position as a leader in environmental stewardship.

First, I want to assure you that a final decision has not been made about the CHP plant, and won't be until next year. Our Campus Sustainability Committee, which includes faculty from the Nicholas School of the Environment and other Duke faculty, students and staff, undertook a thorough evaluation of the plan last academic year. The Committee delivered to former President Brodhead a detailed report and a number of recommendations, many of which have been and will be adopted as our internal review continues.

Second, and perhaps more critical, our decision as to whether or not to proceed with this plan will be based – following the recommendation of the Campus Sustainability Committee -- on the feasibility of using harvested biogas rather than fossil-derived natural gas as the fuel. Progress is being made in working with Duke Energy, other private sector partners, and state and local governments. Should this come to pass, Duke University will have played a key role in the development of a new renewable energy sector in North Carolina, which itself will yield considerable environmental benefits consistent with the university's Climate Action Plan.

Thank you again for your letter, analysis and offer of assistance. I am pleased to know that we share an interest in environmental teaching, learning and discovery at Duke University, and I assure you that all decisions with respect to a possible CHP plant will be undertaken with our core university values very much in mind.

Sincerely,

-- Vince

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**From:** Jim Warren <[jim@ncwarn.org](mailto:jim@ncwarn.org)>  
**Date:** Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 4:00 PM  
**To:** "Vincent Price, Ph.D." <[vincent.price@duke.edu](mailto:vincent.price@duke.edu)>  
**Cc:** Tallman Trask <[t3@duke.edu](mailto:t3@duke.edu)>, Nancy Metzloff <[nancy.metzloff@duke.edu](mailto:nancy.metzloff@duke.edu)>, "Jeff Vincent, Ph.D." <[jeff.vincent@duke.edu](mailto:jeff.vincent@duke.edu)>  
**Subject:** Updated info regarding CHP project

President Price,

Please confirm that this letter made it to you. Hope your first semester has gone well.

Jim Warren

*Building large power plants is making the climate crisis worse – by squandering precious years and dollars that should be going toward energy efficiency, renewables and energy storage.*

***Jim Warren**, Executive Director*

**NC WARN**  
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