WE CAN SHIFT TO CLEAN, EFFICIENT POWER IN NORTH CAROLINA

- Moderate increases in efficiency, clean power and cogeneration can allow for the phase-out of all NC coal-fired power plants by 2030. This can be achieved without gambling tens of billions of public dollars on new nuclear plants.*
- Solar, wind and other renewable power could be combined to provide ‘round-the-clock electricity that meets 94% of North Carolina’s needs.*
- Saving energy is the cheapest, fastest way to cut pollution and power bills. By 2030 the US can save 25-31% of electricity use through efficiency and conservation, according to the National Academy of Sciences.

Solar PV now provides cheaper electricity than new nuclear power plants would. Incentives make residential solar PV less expensive than most used cars in North Carolina.*

Wind and solar energy are growing rapidly in competitive markets around the world.

In accord with Dr. John Blackburn’s studies, NC WARN is calling for renewable energy to meet 25% of electricity demand in North Carolina by 2025. Twenty-one other states and Washington, D.C. have renewable requirements of 20% or more.

Also, we are calling for energy efficiency to increase by 1.5% per year. Many utilities and other states are achieving this already.

“This clean-energy approach would create thousands of jobs and avoid construction of highly expensive, financially risky nuclear power plants.”

Dr. John Blackburn

* Visit www.ncwarn.org to read three recent studies by NC WARN’s technical advisor, the late Dr. John Blackburn, Professor Emeritus and former chair of the Economics Department of Duke University and former Chancellor.
WITH SOLUTIONS AT HAND, WHY IS NC LAGGING?

- There are no technical or economic reasons preventing a shift to clean energy in NC. The barriers are Duke Energy and Progress Energy.
  
  Both are developing minimal renewable energy and efficiency programs that mainly serve to greenwash their corporate images.
  
- Both Duke and Progress continue using their political muscle to block widespread advances in efficiency and solar and wind power in NC.

- Why? Because both want to build huge, costly nuclear plants, although the nuclear “revival” is suffering severe design and construction problems.

  Ninety US nuclear projects failed in the 1980s, so lenders won’t fund new reactors unless the risks are “socialized” through taxpayer loans and by pre-charging NC ratepayers with annual rate hikes.

- Despite industry PR, pursuing new reactors is making the climate crisis worse by squandering time and money needed for efficiency and clean power.

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*Half the coal burned by Duke and Progress comes from mountaintop removal.*

Over 500 Appalachian mountain tops and 2,000 miles of river headwaters have been destroyed to provide coal for electricity.

*Coal’s pollution damages our lungs and hearts.*

Mercury emissions are harming our children while coal ash ponds are polluting our water.
A GRASSROOTS-LED SHIFT TO CLEAN ENERGY

- NC WARN, working with allies across the state, has launched a campaign to close all North Carolina coal plants within 15-20 years.*
- At the community level, we’re prioritizing proven energy-saving programs, solar water heating, and mandates against wasting energy.
- The electric utilities’ weak efficiency programs ignore low- and moderate-income families. So we’ll amplify the efforts of the Alliance for NC SAVE$ ENERGY, a coalition NC WARN co-founded that now has over 50 diverse organizations and businesses statewide (see www.ncsavesenergy.org).

NC MUST PHASE OUT COAL POWER—STARTING NOW*

- North Carolina emits more carbon dioxide from fossil fuels than **186 individual countries** – what we do to cut emissions counts.
- A state science panel in 2010 warned the NC legislature that sea levels will rise 15 to 55 inches within 90 years.
- A 2009 study shows that 19% of the world’s coral reefs – fundamental to ocean life – are already gone.
- Heat waves, droughts, floods, super-storms and other climate change disasters are already claiming at least 300,000 lives every year.
- The world’s top scientists warn that global warming is accelerating and is within a few years of being beyond humanity’s control. If we cross that tipping point, irreversible warming would follow at a pace no one can predict.

*NASA’s James Hansen says all worldwide coal combustion must end by 2030.
**STOP DIRTY POWER FROM BLOCKING CLEAN ENERGY**

- **Make your home and workplace energy efficient.** See our website for resources.
- **Get politically involved.** We must offset the utilities’ control of our political and civic leaders.
- **Stay informed on energy and climate issues.**

**Become a member of NC WARN with a tax-deductible contribution.**

Send your dues to:
NC WARN, PO Box 61051
Durham, NC 27715-1051

Or donate online: www.ncwarn.org

*(Suggested donation is $25, but any amount is greatly appreciated.)*

Before the recurring droughts of the past decade, water was treated as if it were inexhaustible. We must start conserving energy as a similar precious resource.

Efficiency and renewable energy businesses are eager to increase their operations in North Carolina—but the utilities are hampering them.

The bottom line is this: an estimated annual savings for electricity customers in NC of $1.5-2 billion, a healthier place to live, and doing our share in the fight to slow global warming.

*WE CAN slow climate change and build a clean energy economy.*
*To do so, more people must get involved by contributing a little time or financial support.*

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