



Contact: Wendy Jacobs
Chair, Durham County Board of Commissioners
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December 9, 2019

Lynn J. Good
President and Chief Executive Officer
Duke Energy Corporation
Charlotte, North Carolina

Subject: Finding a mutually beneficial model for rapidly deploying solar+storage at North Carolina schools

Dear Ms. Good:

So far, 2019 has been the globe's second hottest year on record. We have seen our beloved Ocracoke Island submerged. We know that our earth will continue to warm and generate large-scale destructive weather events every year.

As elected officials we must plan for that unpredictable future. How we produce and consume energy is a primary concern for the long-term viability of our towns and counties. In fact, 15 cities and seven counties in North Carolina have made commitments to emissions reduction and clean energy targets, but we need your help.

One way we can meet our targets is by running our schools on clean energy. The exciting no-upfront-cost solar+storage arrangement that Duke Renewables and REC Solar have made with schools elsewhere could be a game-changer in Duke's home state. We would like to discuss models that would work here to help schools get solar and battery storage systems at no upfront cost that would enable them to immediately begin saving money on energy costs, freeing up valuable resources to be spent in the classroom.

Siting such systems at schools would also be of value to the public at large, since many schools serve as emergency shelters during outages. These systems could even have a further benefit to the community if the solar on school rooftops or parking lots, plus battery storage, were designed to serve surrounding neighborhoods as a microgrid not only when outages occur but also during normal operations, helping replace planned fossil fuel investments, thus saving all customers money.

You recently spoke in Durham of the need to decentralize the grid. Our schools are highly motivated and well-positioned to partner with you and serve as community clean energy centers in a way that can be mutually beneficial to both Duke and the people of North Carolina, and the technology is clearly available to make this happen.

We can work together to address any legislative changes that may be necessary.

We request that Rob Caldwell, president of Duke Energy Renewables, and a senior regulated utility official meet in Durham with a small group of local government elected officials and school board members to start this discussion. As many of our jurisdictions are currently setting in place plans for achieving the renewable energy targets we have set, we would appreciate a reply by January 10, with a goal of meeting in February.

We look forward to working in partnership with Duke Energy in this exciting and important effort.

Sincerely,

Jamezetta R. Bedford, Orange County Board of Commissioners
Natalie Beyer, Durham Public Schools Board of Education
Heidi Carter, Durham County Board of Commissioners*
TJ Cawley, Mayor, Town of Morrisville
Rani Dasi, Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education
Mark Dorosin, Orange County Board of Commissioners
Kathleen Ferguson, Hillsborough Town Board of Commissioners
Bett Wilson Foley, Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners
Diana Hales, Chatham County Board of Commissioners*
Rep. Zack Hawkins, NC House of Representatives
Pam Hemminger, Mayor, Chapel Hill
James Hill, Vice-Chair, Durham County Board of Commissioners
Karen Howard, Chatham County Board of Commissioners
Brenda Howerton, Durham County Board of Commissioners
Wendy Jacobs, Chair, Durham County Board of Commissioners*
Bill Jensen, former Apex Town Councilman*
Jillian Johnson, Mayor Pro Tempore, Durham
Nancy LaPlaca, Member-elect, Boone Town Council
Lydia Lavelle, Mayor, Carrboro
Michael D. Lee, Chairman, Durham Public Schools Board of Education
Mark Marcoplos, Orange County Board of Commissioners*
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Steve Schewel, Mayor, Durham

Damon Seils, Carrboro Board of Aldermen
Sammy Slade, Carrboro Board of Aldermen
Del Turner, Chatham County Board of Education
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Steven Unruhe, Durham Public Schools Board of Education
Jenn Weaver, Mayor-elect, Town of Hillsborough
Jane Allen Wilson, Vice-Chair, Chatham County Board of Education

* Steering Committee members

cc: Governor Roy Cooper
NC Utilities Commission
Duke Energy NC President Stephen De May