

# PROTECT OUR LAND

## Challenge Duke's Plans!

➔ [CarolinaLandCoalition.org](http://CarolinaLandCoalition.org)



### There are alternatives Duke Energy's "Fossilization" Plan

- Duke Energy has temporarily put the Western Carolina's "Modernization" plan on hold to consider other alternatives to the a 650 MW natural gas plant, 45 miles of new massive transmission lines and the substation in Campobello. Duke Energy previously claimed this was the only plan able to meet Western North Carolina's projected 15% increase in energy demand.
- **Duke's original plan was anything but modern. It would double down on climate-disrupting fossil fuels, intrude on private property rights and degrade the visual beauty of our Mountains and Foothills.**
- **Any new fossil fuel infrastructure should be right-sized based on regional public need after taking advantage of low cost, sustainable options like existing hydropower, energy efficiency and solar and other renewable energy generation. NOT trying to profit off ratepayers.** Duke can oversize this project because by North Carolina law they are guaranteed a high rate of return on infrastructure projects. This is paid for by Duke's ratepayers, YOU!



### The POWER of energy efficiency

- **Energy efficiency is the lowest cost, most sustainable option for meeting our region's energy demand.** Buildings account for 40% of energy use in the US and on average 30% of that is wasted from air leaks, outdated appliances and inefficient or malfunctioning equipment<sup>i</sup>.
- **Other utilities aggressively go after energy efficiency while Duke Energy lags behind.** Even though it's the largest investor-owned utility in the U.S. Duke ranks 22nd out of the top 32 utilities when it comes to annual energy efficiency savings as a percentage of sales<sup>ii</sup>.
- **Energy efficiency is the proven least-cost resource compared with new generation capacity and is the cheapest option for meeting additional electricity needs.** For a utility, efficiency costs 2.5 cents per kWh, while natural gas generation costs 7-9 cents per kWh. Multiple studies show efficiency CAN meet forecasted growing demand needs from retiring coal plants and growth<sup>iii</sup>.
- **Duke Energy hasn't even begun to tap the next generation of energy efficiency programs that could save 22% of electricity use in 2030<sup>iv</sup>.**
- **Go to [bit.ly/MTGreenEnergy](http://bit.ly/MTGreenEnergy) and learn how to save energy and money in your home or business with existing programs and rebates.**



## Renewable is a dependable, viable, affordable option:

- **Duke Energy could take advantage of the 380 MW of existing, clean, renewable hydropower in Western North Carolina from Brookfield Renewable.** Brookfield is currently seeking to put this under contract and in the meantime is selling it to other states...over Duke Energy's grid.
- **Duke Energy lags behind other utilities when it comes to renewable energy investments too!** Even though it's the largest investor-owned utility in the U.S. Duke ranks 19th out of the top 32 utilities when it comes to annual renewable energy sales as a percentage of overall sales<sup>v</sup>.
- **Solar energy projects continue to grow throughout all of North Carolina. Statewide, private investments in clean energy totaled \$2.6 billion from 2009 to 2013 and will generate an additional \$8.1 billion over the next decade. In 2013 NC ranked 3rd in the nation in new renewable capacity installations<sup>vi</sup>.**
- An additional 3,400 megawatts of clean energy could be developed in North Carolina, not including off-shore wind or solar installations<sup>vii</sup>
- The U.S. Dept. of Energy has named 25 cities across the country taking comprehensive, city-wide approaches to facilitate solar energy. In addition to traditionally "sunny" places like Austin, TX and Denver, CO, the list includes those on par with our area or receiving less sun: Knoxville, TN, Madison and Milwaukee, WI, Portland, OR and others.

## Natural gas is NOT a clean energy solution

- **Duke Energy claims that natural gas is more environmentally friendly than coal, but that couldn't be further from the truth.** Natural gas, especially when extracted from fracking, pollutes air and water at the site of extraction and along pipelines. There's no way to know if the gas that will be burned in Asheville comes from fracking, harming another community.
- Natural gas is primarily made up of methane, which is 25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide when it comes to contributing to global climate change. The large-scale shift from coal to natural gas will do little to change the amount of heat-trapping emissions being released to our atmosphere.
- Here in the Southeast we're already paying the high costs of climate change: Significant variations in climate patterns, shifting seasons, droughts, more powerful storms and hurricanes and the associated infrastructure and property damage, deaths, greater prevalence of pests and more.
- Between 1980 and 2009 the Southeast experienced 254 climate-related disasters causing over \$1 billion worth of damage, the highest of any region in the U.S.

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<sup>i</sup> [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

<sup>ii</sup> Ceres Inc. and Clean Edge, Inc. "Benchmarking Utility Clean Energy Deployment: 2014". 2014.

<sup>iii</sup> American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. "Avoiding a Train Wreck: Replacing old coal plants with energy efficiency". 2011.

<sup>iv</sup> American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. "New Horizons for Energy Efficiency. Major opportunities to reach higher electricity savings by 2030". 2014

<sup>v</sup> Ceres Inc. and Clean Edge, Inc. "Benchmarking Utility Clean Energy Deployment: 2014". 2014.

<sup>vi</sup> PEW Charitable Trust. "Clean Economy Rising: Solar shines in North Carolina". 2014.

<sup>vii</sup> La Capra Associates, "Competitiveness Under Constraints: The Electric Utility Industry, National Context and Lessons from Other States"

Join the campaign to voice your concern! We're stronger together.

CAROLINALANDCOALITION.ORG – PROTECT OUR LAND