

Duke Energy Carolinas is asking the state for permission to raise energy rates.

If granted, power bills for DEC customers will go up again soon.

The NC Utilities Commission is holding a series of public hearings across the state to gather testimony from DEC customers like you. We encourage you to share how a rate increase would impact your life, your finances, your business -- or share how you think it might affect the wellbeing of your community. The talking points below can be used to help inform your comments; however, you do not need to be an expert to weigh in. We encourage you to make your comments your own. It's important that the NC Utilities Commission hears your personal experience and challenges related to increasing energy bills.

If you can't attend a public hearing, you can submit your own comments online at <https://www.ncuc.gov/contactus.html>, or you can mail your own comments to the Utilities Commission at 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4300.

If you need assistance with submitting comments, please reach out and we would be happy to walk you through the process. Be sure to include the Docket number in your comments: Docket E-7 Sub 1276 for Duke Energy Carolinas.

Alternatively, you can also sign [this petition](#) which urges the NC Utilities Commission to reject Duke Energy's proposal for higher rates.

FAST FACTS: Duke Energy's Proposal to Raise Your Power Bill

- The company has proposed a three-year rate increase. If approved by the NCUC, DEC's increases in 2024, 2025 and 2026 would result in overall rate increases of 17.9% for residential customers and 15.7% for businesses.
- A typical Duke Energy Carolinas residential customer would see their monthly bills rise from the current average of \$115.01 per month to \$127.55 starting January 1, 2024.
- Increases in successive years would bring the average bill from \$115.01 in 2023 to \$134.63 in 2026 or about \$20 more per month.
- By 2026, the average annual residential electric bill would be about \$240 higher than it is today.

Points to Consider

No Reward for New Gas: Don't Force Customers to Pay For More Dirty Energy

- Clean, renewable energy is cheap and popular, but Duke Energy's plans prioritize using your money to invest in more fossil fuels like gas.
- New gas infrastructure is bad for community health and worsens the climate crisis, and unlike clean energy sources that have been getting cheaper each year, gas generation is getting more expensive and won't be more affordable in the future.
- Duke's grid investment plan ignores public input that any big investment should support clean energy, not more dirty fossil gas and coal.

No Guaranteed Profit Without Guaranteed Power

- Duke Energy wants to be rewarded with more revenue, profit and generous restructuring – but the company has done nothing to demonstrate wise investment or management of North Carolina's energy grid.
- Duke Energy is heavily reliant on coal, natural gas, and nuclear power. Cleaner energy sources and more preparation would provide more dependability for customers.
- Duke Energy's extensive blackouts in December 2022 demonstrate a need for the NC Utilities Commission to take a stronger approach in overseeing how the utility is performing its duties.
- Duke Energy wants big money and little transparency. Duke is asking the Utilities Commission for an increase in cash flow to fund unspecified projects, with assurances that the company will fill in the details later.

Rate Increases Redistribute Wealth from Working Families to Wealthy Investors

- Bill increases place an unfair burden on older residents with fixed incomes and on anyone struggling to make ends meet.
- Duke Energy wants to raise rates in part to receive a greater Return on Equity (ROE). In other words, the company wants even more guaranteed profits – pulled out of your family's budget and going straight into the pockets of company executives and shareholders.
- Rate increases have an adverse impact on working families. If Duke Energy gets its way, a person making minimum wage in NC would have to work an additional 51 hours each year to pay their electric bills by 2026.

Question to consider:

What will you or your family have to sacrifice in order to keep up with Duke Energy's constantly increasing power bills?



Hearing Information

2023 DEC Hearing Information

CITY	DATE	LOCATION
Morganton	Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.	Burke County Courthouse 201 South Green Street Courtroom 1A Morganton, North Carolina 28655
Charlotte	Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.	Mecklenburg County Courthouse 832 East 4th Street Courtroom 5350 Charlotte, North Carolina 28202
Winston-Salem	Monday, July 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.	Forsyth County Courthouse 200 North Main Street Courtroom 1A Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101
Virtual Hearing	Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.	Held remotely via Webex
Virtual Hearing	Monday, July 31, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.	Held remotely via Webex
Durham	Monday, August 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.	Durham County Courthouse 510 South Dillard Street Courtroom 7D Durham, North Carolina 27701