

<https://www.facingsouth.org/2021/03/institute-index-climate-watchdogs-challenge-duke-energys-polluting-15-year-plan>

INSTITUTE INDEX: Climate watchdogs challenge Duke Energy's polluting 15-year plan

Date on which the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) will hold a public hearing about Duke Energy's latest Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), a biennial blueprint for how the company intends to generate electricity for the next 15 climate-critical years: [3/16/2021](#)*

Under Duke Energy's proposed base plan without a carbon policy in place, megawatts of new gas generation capacity the company would build: [9,600](#)

Under its proposed base plan with a carbon policy, megawatts of new gas generation capacity it would build: [7,350](#)

Factor by which Duke Energy's planned building of gas infrastructure exceeds that of the second-place utility parent company nationally, the Tennessee Valley Authority: [more than 2](#)

Considered over a two-decade timeframe, number of times more potent methane — the primary component of natural gas — is compared to carbon dioxide, another heat-trapping gas released when fossil fuels are burned: [84](#)

According to a challenge to Duke's IRP filed by the climate justice group NC WARN and the Center for Biological Diversity, factor by which the company lowballed cost estimates for new gas plants compared to what it actually paid for recent construction: [1/2](#)

Also according to that challenge, percent more power Duke Energy had than needed on even the coldest days in 2019, undercutting its argument that it needs more gas-fired plants to avoid shortages: [40](#)

Year by which President Biden's climate plan requires utilities to stop burning gas and coal: [2035](#)

Under North Carolina's own Clean Energy Plan, percent by which the electric power sector must cut greenhouse gas emissions over 2005 levels by 2030 — a goal that an analysis by a coalition of environmental groups found Duke Energy's latest IRP fails to meet: [70](#)

Should Duke Energy build new gas infrastructure that it then has to shutter because of climate policy, amount in so-called "stranded assets" the company could be on the hook for, according to a recent report by the North Carolina-based Energy Transition Institute: [around \\$5 billion](#)

The potential cost of those stranded gas assets to each of Duke Energy's ratepayers in the Carolinas: [\\$1,000](#)

Number of major North Carolina companies that recently submitted comments on the IRP in which they call on Duke Energy and regulators "to better prioritize cost-effective clean energy resources over polluting, uneconomical ones" and specifically cite concerns about stranded gas assets: [8](#)**

Percent of Duke Energy's electricity that came from renewable sources as of 2019: [5](#)

Percent average for utilities nationwide: [18](#)

Percent of its electricity Duke Energy plans to generate from renewables by 2030: [14](#)

Part of a [new regulatory trend](#) giving environmentalists hope, date on which Virginia's utility-overseeing State Corporation Commission rejected Dominion's IRP over concerns about its reliance on polluting and costly fossil fuel infrastructure and its environmental justice impacts — the [second time](#) in the past three years the state's regulators have rejected the company's plans: [2/1/2021](#)

Month in which the utility-regulating Public Service Commission in South Carolina — a state that has been [rocked by a scandal](#) involving a multibillion-dollar failed nuclear power project — also rejected Dominion Energy's IRP outright for failing to minimize costs and risks to ratepayers: [12/2020](#)

Date on which a public hearing about Duke Energy's IRP is scheduled in South Carolina: [4/26/2021](#)