

Summary of a Statement on the Duke Carbon Plan Read by Dan W. Figgins at the NCUC
July 11, 2022, Durham, NC, Public Hearing

I am a member of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church and co-founder (1999) of its Earth Care Ministry. I am an active member of Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle and Advisor to North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light. Pullen Memorial uses a geo-thermal heat pump and rooftop solar panels to help meet some of its energy needs.

I believe that the first priority of the Duke Energy Plan should be to produce and distribute energy by methods that maximize the creation of a habitable planet for NC's children and grandchildren. The second priority -- which serves the first -- should be regulations and incentives that produce maximum amounts of energy by solar panels and by land and ocean wind turbines.

Both of these priorities are undermined by building an infrastructure designed to produce and distribute electricity based on hydraulic fracturing, pipeline distribution, and burning methane gas. Fracking, the associated methane leaks at wellheads and pipelines and the burning of methane, will destroy environmental balance causing climate disasters, earthquakes, air pollution and water shortages.

In conclusion, the Duke Energy proposal disingenuously labels gas-powered electricity generation as a "bridge" source of electricity generation. Such generation plants have a lifetime of 40 to 60 years. They will be closed down well before the 2030 and 2050 mandated emission cuts. They will become "stranded assets" which will increase electricity costs for NC customers and provide no benefit.

Duke Energy's investments would be better spent and should be invested in incentives for solar roof top systems and investments in solar farms, off-shore and on-shore wind turbines and wind farms.