



ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS BOARD

MINUTES

DRAFT

February 06th, 2019
Council Chambers, 1st Floor, City Hall
101 City Hall Plaza, Durham, NC

Voting Members – Matthew Kopac (chair), Jessalee Landfried (vice chair), Donald Addu (secretary), Roberto Valle Kinloch, Tyjuanna LaBennett, Rachel McIntosh-Kastrinsky, Laura Marie Davis, Casey Collins, Wafa Khalil, Matthew Pait

Excused Absence - Matthew Herman

Ex Officio Members/Staff – Laura Woods, Tobin Freid, Heidi Carter, Muriel William, Sandy Wilbur

I. Call to Order at 6:02 pm

II. Approval of Minutes, 10-0

III. New Business and Continuing Business

a. Durham Public Schools Sustainability – Brian Callaway, Coordinator of Energy and Sustainability for DPS, discussed the state of sustainability in DPS:

- 56 Sites, 30 Elementary, 10 Middle and 6 High Schools
- Declining student population despite increased population growth
- DPS manages almost 6 million square feet and a student population of 32,000
- 30% of total building space is now LED lighting, installed over 4 years
- \$5 million has been invested in HVAC controls
- HVAC systems still run on 56k modems
- Duke Energy costs are down 7% form 2014
- The 7% decline is due to the switch in lighting and 14 schools now have fully wireless dimming and vacancy settings
- Total cost was \$1.5 million out with a \$2 million incentive grant from Duke Energy
- \$440,000 in savings per year creating an ROI of less than 4 years
- Challenge is a chronic disinvestment from DPS
- Trees Across Durham has planted over 2,000 trees on DPS property
- Lunch room recycling in 15 schools and composting in 3 schools

- Derivatization of custodial staff has greatly increases service quality
 - Established a five year actionable DPS strategic energy plan with community input
 - Create revolving energy fund to capture utility savings
 - Establish bond that will fund projects with community input
- b. **Triangle Community Biomass Justice Center** – Marc Dreyfors, President of the Forest Foundation, shared information on biodiesel in Durham:
- Request for financial support and maintaining industrial zoning downtown
 - Possible public-private partnerships
 - Interest rate buy down opportunities
- c. **Triangle Regional Resilience Partnership** – Tobin Freid, Sustainability Manager
- Durham can expect increased climate impacts including extreme rain, flooding, temperature variability and population growth
 - We can expect more wildfires and droughts
 - Increasing our resilience will make it easier to recover from disasters
 - There are 134 high risk, high vulnerability sites across Wake, Durham and Orange counties
 - We can expect more days over 110 degrees and more nights over 80 degrees
 - Durham neighborhood compass - <https://compass.durhamnc.gov/>

IV. **Announcements** –

- a. Next EAB Meeting 3/6/2019 at 6:00 PM, 2nd floor Committee Room, City Hall
- b. Bull City Work Place Challenge Feb 21st 9:00 am Neighborhood Improvement Services at Goldenbelt
- c. Amanda Drake will be leaving the Sustainability Department – Thank you Amanda for all your work!
- d. NC Clean Tech Summit on February 28th – March 1st
- e. Clean Air Carolina Breathe Conference in Wilmington on April 11th
- f. NC State Energy Conference April 28th – May 1st – discount available through April 15th

Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act - A person with a disability may receive an auxiliary aid or service to effectively participate in city government activities by contacting the ADA Coordinator, voice 919.560.4197 or ADA@DurhamNC.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.

V. Resolutions – Letter to NC Utility Commission calling for increased renewable energy from Duke Energy. Resolution Supporting the Durham/Orange Light Rail Line

- VI. Vote, 10-0 in favor of signing the NC Utility Commission Letter
- VII. Vote, 10-0 in favor of supporting the Durham/Orange Light Rail Line
- I. **Adjournment at 8:40 pm**

Attachment 1

Letter to NC Utility Commission calling for increased renewable energy from Duke Energy

February 4, 2019

Subject: Urgent local government call for new direction in NC energy policy

Dear Members of the North Carolina Utilities Commission:

The undersigned local government officials urgently call for you to help us do our part to slow climate change and expand renewable energy.

The science is clear: humanity has very little time to avert irreversible climate catastrophe. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported in October that we must cut annual global greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030. Prominent scientists say this means that emissions must peak and start downward by 2020.

Instead, U.S. carbon dioxide emissions increased 3.4% in 2018. Even worse is the super-potent methane being leaked from natural gas operations. We have no time to waste on the kind of business-as-usual 15-year Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) that Duke Energy is asking you to approve. Duke’s plan foresees only 8% renewable energy in 2033, calls for the equivalent of 24 new large plants burning fracked gas, and would necessitate repeated rate hikes.

It is our duty and yours, as public servants, to do everything in our power to reduce greenhouse gas emissions immediately and to keep electricity affordable. Other states are already demanding more from their utilities. Virginia recently rejected Dominion Resources’ IRP. The California utilities commission rejected proposals for new natural gas-burning power plants in favor of cheaper solar-plus-storage options.

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In the current marketplace, plummeting solar and storage prices mean that technology is already beating natural gas on cost. New gas plants built by Duke Energy will likely become expensive stranded assets within just a few years.

We call on you to reject Duke Energy's IRP as proposed and demand that it be revised to reflect actual trends in the energy industry, which are racing toward clean, cheap, reliable renewables and storage and away from the fossil fuels that are badly disrupting our climate.

There are no economic or technical barriers to the kind of transition required by the climate crisis. The only barrier is political will. We call on you to assert that will, beginning with a rejection of Duke Energy's archaic energy generation plan.

Sincerely,

SIGNING AFTER SUBMISSION OF THE LETTER ON FEB. 4

Matt Kopac, Chairman, for the Durham Environmental Affairs Board

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Attachment 2

Dear President Price,

The Durham Environmental Affairs Board applauds the City of Durham, Durham County and key community stakeholders for their collaboration with GoTriangle on the development of the light rail. We support the light rail for the environmental benefit of reducing carbon emissions, and for the additional indirect impacts it will have on improving the health of our community. This project is essential for our community and institutions like Duke to meet our goals around climate action. **Therefore, we urge**

The largest and most direct positive environmental impact of the light rail is the reduction of local carbon emissions, as it provides an alternative to commuting by car. Reducing carbon emissions is directly consistent with the Durham City-County Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Local Action Plan, which established the goal to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030.

Access to the light rail as an alternative form of transportation is also specifically in-line with Duke University's Climate Action Plan. Reducing emissions from daily employee commuting is the first objective under the section of the plan addressing transportation. The 2018 Climate Action Plan Update draft further specifies enhanced public transit access as the first recommendation to meet the established objective. Given that the commuting emissions per employee have actually increased over time, we strongly support Duke University's active collaboration with GoTriangle, the City of Durham and Durham County to complete the light rail in accordance with the Climate Action Plan's objectives.

The reduction of carbon emissions will have a direct positive impact on local air quality, which translates to a direct positive influence on human health. What is more, the light rail will promote healthier lifestyles by improving walkability and addressing the social determinants of health identified by the Duke University Health System Healthy Durham 20/20 plan and the 2017 Durham County Community Health Assessment.

Given the necessity of reducing our carbon emissions in the face of climate change and the direct and indirect health benefits to our community, the Durham Environmental Affairs Board is in favor of the light rail and urges Duke to join other regional stakeholders in moving this process forward.

Sincerely,

The Durham Environmental Affairs Board

Matt Kopac, Chair

Jessalee Landfried, Vice Chair

Don Addu, Secretary

Casey Collins

Laura Marie Davis

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Staff Contact: Laura Woods, Senior Planner
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