

Resolution #

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF
A VOLUNTARY ON-BILL ENERGY EFFICIENCY FINANCE PROGRAM
BY DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC**

- WHEREAS,** nearly all of Buncombe County lies within the Western region of Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEPW) service area and accounts for 77% of all properties receiving electric service from DEPW;
- WHEREAS,** according to the 2010-2014 U.S. Census, 60 percent of the occupied housing stock of Buncombe County is more than 25 years old, accounting for more than 68,000 housing units, of which 32 percent are renter-occupied properties; and
- WHEREAS,** nearly one in every six households located in Buncombe County live in poverty, gross rent exceeds 30 percent of income for 47 percent of renters; and a study conducted by *Accounting Insights* found that county residents living below 50 percent of the poverty spent an average of 36 percent of their household income on energy costs in 2015; and
- WHEREAS,** the large majority of residents in Buncombe County who need and/or could benefit from home energy efficiency improvements cannot afford to make the needed improvements, do not qualify for traditional financing, and/or do not own the property they live in; and
- WHEREAS,** a voluntary tariffed on-bill energy efficiency finance program would offer all Buncombe County residents, regardless of income level, credit score or whether they own the property they occupy, the option to finance needed home energy improvements “debt-free” while benefitting from lower annual energy costs and a more comfortable home; and
- WHEREAS,** achieving even a modest level of investment through a voluntary utility on-bill energy efficiency finance program over the next ten years would result in the retrofit and improvement of many homes, create new jobs for local contactors and retailers, reduce energy costs for Buncombe County residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That this Board applauds Duke Energy Progress, LLC for its evaluation of a voluntary on-bill finance program.
2. That Buncombe County would welcome consideration as the location of a pilot program or sustained initiative.
3. That this resolution be effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 7th day of March 2017

ATTEST

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR BUNCOMBE COUNTY**

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN

APPROVED AS TO FORM

COUNTY ATTORNEY