



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 5/4/2021

Consent Agenda

Department: Sustainability

Presenter(s): Jeremiah LeRoy

Contact(s): jeremiah.leroy@buncombecounty.org

Subject: Amendment to ground lease for Woodfin Solar Facility

Brief Summary:

In August of 2018 the County entered into a lease agreement with Duke Energy for the purpose of Duke constructing a solar farm on the retired landfill in Woodfin. The original agreement was to have Duke pay the County \$700 per usable acre of land, and to have the County purchase the Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) at a below market rate of \$.01 for the first five years and \$1.00 for the remainder of the term.

The public staff of the NC Utilities Commission did not approve of this arrangement due to the REC purchase being well below market value. In order to get the project approved at the Utilities Commission, the County and Duke have agreed to an amended lease. This amendment will “net” the value of the leased acreage and the value of the RECs. This will result in no lease revenue, but also no cost for the County to receive the RECs. The Utilities Commission has approved the project to move forward if the lease is amended as stated.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Approve lease amendment

County Manager’s comments and Recommendation:

County Manager recommends as presented