

Unlocking Energy Efficiency in the Upstate: Pathways to Power Grid Equity

Michael Coleman, Energy Advocate



- ❧ Mission: Upstate Forever is a nonprofit conservation organization that protects critical lands, waters, and the unique character of Upstate South Carolina.
- ❧ UF's Energy Program proactively works to decrease our carbon footprint, while advocating for policies that increase clean energy with a business mindset.

What is Energy Efficiency?

- ❧ The use of less energy to perform the same task or produce the same result.
- ❧ Energy efficient homes and buildings use less energy for heating, cooling, and operating appliances.
- ❧ Used as a tool for increasing affordability



Programs offered by:

DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS

Home Energy House Call

- ❧ Free assessment that provides customers with an energy audit of their home and an energy efficiency starter kit. Customers also receive a report with actions to take to increase the home's energy efficiency.
- ❧ To Access:
 - Sign up at duke-energy.com or Call 844-346-4366
 - Must be a single-family home (mobile homes *not* eligible)
 - Have electric water heater, electric heat, or central air

Smart \$aver

- Designed to help customers make improvements to their homes that include improving air quality, and ensuring equipment is operating efficiently.
- To Access:
 - Contact contractor (list available at duke-energy.com)
 - Schedule improvements
 - Select Rebate method (contractor completes application)
 - HVAC Install: up to \$550
 - Heat Pump Water Heater: up to \$550
 - Insulating & Sealing Attic: \$250
 - Seal ductwork: \$100
 - Pool Pump: \$300

Income Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Assistance

- Helps income-qualified customers save energy through the installation of energy conservation measures.
- Installations can include:
 - Insulation
 - Sealing duct work
 - Replace heating and cooling systems
- To Access:
 - Must be S.C. resident (with active account)
 - Income must be less than 200% of [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#)
- S.C. Providers:
 - Anderson Interfaith Ministries (Anderson, Abbeville, Oconee, Pickens)
 - Piedmont Community Action, Inc. (Spartanburg)

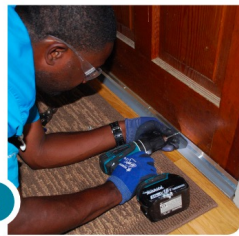
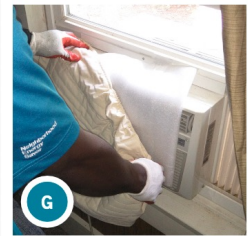
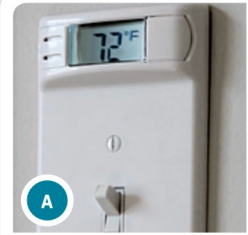
Power Manager

- ❧ Allows customers to have smart thermostat installed on heating and cooling units to receive annual bill credits. By enrolling, users agree to allow Duke Energy to make brief adjustments to your thermostat during peak electric demand periods.
- ❧ To Access:
 - Must have smart thermostat installed
 - Must have wi-fi
 - Free to enroll (www.thermostatrewards.com/dec)
- ❧ Available credits:
 - Smart Thermostat- \$75 initial credit + \$25 annual credit
 - AC Control Device - \$8 monthly bill credit (July-October)
 - Heat Strip Control Device - \$6 monthly bill credit (January-April)

Multi-Family Energy Efficiency Program

- Designed to help residents who live in multifamily units to save money through basic energy efficiency upgrades.
- Upgrades include:
 - Bathroom/Kitchen Faucet Aerators
 - Pipe wrap
 - Showerheads
 - Thermostats
- To Access:
 - STEP 1: Schedule Free Assessment by calling 888-297-1671, or emailing: dukenenergymultifamilyEEP@franklinenergy.com
 - STEP 2: Property Assessment
 - STEP 3: Installation

FREE Energy Efficiency Upgrades



🌱 Duke Energy will install the following energy-saving products in your home at no cost.

- A. Digital room thermometer
- B. Showerhead
- C. AC/Furnace filters
- D. Kitchen/Bathroom faucet aerators
- E. Energy-efficient lightbulbs
- F. Water heater wraps/pipe wrap
- G. Covers for window AC units
- H. Caulking, weatherstripping and door sweeps



UPSTATE
FOREVER

Programs offered by:

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT (IRA)

What is the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)?

- ❧ Signed into law on August 16, 2022, by President Joe Biden.
- ❧ Aims to increase access affordable clean energy, improves energy efficiency, expand equitable agriculture, and spur economic development.
- ❧ Provides roughly \$35 billion in funding for clean energy investments and rebate programs managed by the Department of Energy

South Carolina

- ❖ Funding for consumer home rebates will be administered by each state's energy office.
- ❖ S.C. will receive over \$137 Million that will be split into: **Home Energy Performance Based Whole House Rebates**, and **High Efficiency Electric Home Rebates**.

“HOME” Rebates

- ❧ Will provide rebates for energy efficiency retrofits ranging from \$2,000-\$4,000 for individual households.
- ❧ Rebate amounts will depend on the amount of energy savings achieved by the retrofits.
- ❧ Maximum rebates will double for retrofits of low-income homes.
- ❧ To Access:
 - SC Energy Office will administer process, anticipates rebates will be available in 2024.

High Efficiency Electric Home Rebates

- ❧ Will provide rebates on a percentage of the cost for an efficiency project based on the household's income.
- ❧ \$14,000 rebate cap per household
- ❧ To Access:
 - SC Energy Office will administer process, anticipates rebates will be available in 2024.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- Assists in reducing costs associated with heating, cooling, and home energy equipment repairs.
- To Access:
 - [Check Eligibility](http://www.liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/eligibility-tool) (www.liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/eligibility-tool)
 - State
 - Household size
 - Monthly income
 - Benefits received
 - Automatic eligibility if customer receives SNAP or SSI

Energy Star Tax Credits

- Energy Star is the government-backed symbol for energy efficiency, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- IRA includes federal tax credits for :**
 - Electric Panel Upgrade
 - \$600 Max
 - Solar Energy Systems
 - 30% of system cost
 - Exterior Doors
 - \$500 Max
 - Windows
 - \$600 Max
 - Insulation
 - \$1,200 Max
 - Water Heaters
 - \$600 Max



Want to Stay Engaged?

🌱 Duke Energy Carolinas Rate Case

- Upcoming Hearing: April 8, 2024 (6:00 p.m.)
Wade Hampton High School Auditorium
100 Pine Knoll Drive
Greenville, South Carolina 29609
 - Register by: April 5, 2024

🌱 Duke Energy Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

- Hearing: September 16, 2024
Time/ Location TBA

Additional Resources

- ❧ [SC Energy Office](#)
 - (energy.sc.gov/programs)
- ❧ [Energy Saver Tool](#)
 - (applications.sc.gov/energysaver)
- ❧ [Energy Star Tax Credits for Homeowners](#)
 - (energystar.gov)