



Largest floating solar power plant in the Southeast coming to Fort Bragg

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- **1.1-megawatt facility to start construction later this year.**
- **Part of \$36 million energy services agreement with Duke Energy.**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The U.S. Army’s Fort Bragg in North Carolina will soon be home to the largest floating solar plant in the Southeast – a 1.1-megawatt (MW) system as part of a Utility Energy Service Contract (UESC) awarded to Duke Energy.

The \$36 million contract will focus on energy resilience and security at Fort Bragg: infrastructure modernization including lighting and water upgrades, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning and boiler system improvements.

“As a leader in solar energy, we’re excited to bring this unique project to Fort Bragg,” said Melisa Johns, vice president, Distributed Energy Solutions at Duke Energy. “This project takes a comprehensive look at

the way energy is being used at Fort Bragg and will lead to more efficient energy use and significant cost savings.”

Ameresco, Duke Energy’s prime contractor, will build the 1.1-MW floating solar PV system on the Big Muddy Lake located at Camp Mackall. Fort Bragg will own and operate the system once construction is completed. Construction is expected to begin in November.

“We approached Duke Energy with the idea of a floating solar array unsure of how they would respond to the innovative concept,” said Audrey Oxendine, Fort Bragg Energy and Utilities Branch Chief. “However, Duke Energy was excited to take on the challenge and work with us to make an idea into reality.”

The floating solar installation will be paired with a 2-MW battery energy storage system. The system will supplement power to Fort Bragg from the local grid and provide backup power during electric service outages.

Floating solar power could have a big future. The U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) researchers estimate that installing floating solar photovoltaics on the more than 24,000 man-made U.S. reservoirs could generate about [10 percent of the nation’s annual electricity production](#). Currently, floating solar makes up only about 1-2 percent of the world’s solar capacity.

About 90 percent of the [floating solar capacity](#) in the world is in Asia. However, the technology can take advantage of water space that would otherwise go unused – like at Fort Bragg. ([View and download video of a floating solar facility](#)).

North Carolina and Duke Energy are leaders in solar energy. The state is second in the nation for overall solar power capacity. Duke Energy owns and operates 40 solar facilities in North Carolina – one of which is a 13-MW facility at the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in Onslow County.

The project is part of Duke Energy’s federal business, which develops and delivers solutions that strengthen infrastructure reliability, operational resilience and energy cost performance. Duke Energy recognizes that federal and military energy infrastructure needs are diverse and uniquely complex.

About Fort Bragg

Fort Bragg has the largest population of any military installation in the Department of Defense with more than 50,000 active duty personnel. Among its many important functions, the post is the home of the headquarters for both the U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) and U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC). The post is also home of the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), the XVIII Airborne Corps, and the headquarters of U.S. Army Reserve Command, and the 82nd Airborne Division. Womack Army Medical Center is a 1.1 million square feet, 138-bed hospital located on the post serving more than 160,000 eligible beneficiaries, the largest beneficiary population in the Army. Two airfields are located within the confines of the post: Pope Army Airfield and Simmons Army Airfield.

Duke Energy

Duke Energy (NYSE: DUK), a Fortune 150 company headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., is one of the largest energy holding companies in the U.S. It employs 30,000 people and has an electric generating capacity of 51,000 megawatts through its regulated utilities, and 3,000 megawatts through its nonregulated Duke Energy Renewables unit.

Duke Energy is transforming its customers' experience, modernizing the energy grid, generating cleaner energy and expanding natural gas infrastructure to create a smarter energy future for the people and communities it serves. The Electric Utilities and Infrastructure unit's regulated utilities serve approximately 7.7 million retail electric customers in six states – North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. The Gas Utilities and Infrastructure unit distributes natural gas to more than 1.6 million customers in five states – North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky. The Duke Energy Renewables unit operates wind and solar generation facilities across the U.S., as well as energy storage and microgrid projects.

Duke Energy was named to Fortune's 2020 "World's Most Admired Companies" list, and Forbes' 2019 "America's Best Employers" list. More information about the company is available at [duke-energy.com](https://www.duke-energy.com). The [Duke Energy News Center](#) contains news releases, fact sheets, photos, videos and other materials. Duke Energy's [illumination](#) features stories about people, innovations, community topics and environmental issues. Follow Duke Energy on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

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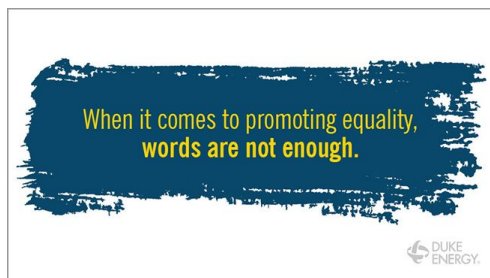
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