

## **Worley, Lindsey**

---

**From:** lkastelic@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lisa Kastelic <lkastelic@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 1:35 PM  
**To:** Statements  
**Subject:** Docket E-2 Sub 1257: Please Approve the Woodfin Solar Facility

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear NC Utilities Commission Members,

I am writing to urge you to approve the 5 MW solar facility proposed by Duke Energy Progress at 2720 Riverside Drive in Woodfin, NC. This project is a critical component of Duke's 2015 commitment to build 15 new MW of solar energy as part of its Western Carolinas Modernization Project. The NC Utilities Commission has supported and urged timely implementation of Duke's solar commitment, and now your approval is key to moving this commitment forward.

When the NC Utilities Commission expressed support for 15 MW of solar in Duke's Western Carolinas Modernization Project, your body acknowledged and supported that if all 15 MW of solar could not fit at the former coal plant, "[Duke] will supplement the on-site solar facility with a combination of rooftop, community, or other utility-scale solar facilities at other locations in the Asheville area." Now that Duke has identified a cost-effective site in our community for this additional 5 MW of solar, I urge you to approve it so the solar installation can be built in a timely fashion.

As North Carolina embraces more solar energy, the benefits of this industry should be available to communities here in our western region – not just in parts of the state that have large parcels of flat land. Approving this solar landfill site would bring the benefits of new solar energy directly to our community: solar industry jobs, reducing local carbon emissions, and making real progress on our local renewable energy goals. In this case, the 5 MW solar facility in Woodfin will help Buncombe County meet our adopted resolution to reach 100% renewable energy by 2042.

Building solar energy on low-value land like this landfill also meets the unique needs of our community by preserving other land for new affordable housing, tree canopy, public spaces, and other highly valued uses in our region. Further, relocating this 5 MW of solar to a different site in the Asheville area would cost far more than installing the system at the relatively flat, more affordable retired landfill site. If this project is not approved, we question whether Duke will be allowed to fulfill its promise to our community.

Please allow Duke to make good on its commitment for 15 MW of solar energy in our region. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kastelic

109 Southwood Dr Weaverville, NC 28787-6315

lkastelic@frontier.com