

# DUKE ENERGY'S HIDDEN MANDATORY FEE HIKE HURTS SOUTH CAROLINIANS

Duke Energy is proposing to raise your rates in order to increase its revenues. As part of its rate hike, Duke wants to **triple its mandatory monthly fee, so you will owe about \$336 per year** before even flipping on the light switch -- **the highest mandatory fee of any investor-owned utility in the nation**. Normally, electricity customers can control their bill by controlling how much power they use. Less power use equals a lower bill, and if customers are smart and thrifty they are rewarded every month with a lower bill. But since the **mandatory monthly fee cannot be reduced or changed** no matter how little energy you use, **you pay more for using less energy**.

## WHY DO MANDATORY FEES HURT CUSTOMERS?

**Mandatory fees take away customer control** by limiting the opportunity for financial savings from using less energy.

**Mandatory fees place the heaviest burden on seniors and low-income customers**, who tend to use less energy.

**Mandatory fees punish energy conservation and solar energy** by charging customers more for using less energy.

**Mandatory fees keep customers chained to utility power.**

**Mandatory fees help shareholders, not customers.**

## WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

**Contact the Public Service Commission (PSC) and demand they stop the proposed fee increase!**

**Step 1:** Easily contact the PSC with the email form here: <http://bit.ly/stop-dukes-fee>

**Step 2.** Speak up at a public hearing! Local public hearings will be scheduled soon. You will be contacted with hearing details if you submit a letter to the PSC at <http://bit.ly/stop-dukes-fee>

### **Make sure to tell the PSC**

- That you are a Duke Energy customer.
- How you will be impacted by higher bills.
- How you have attempted to reduce your energy use through energy conservation, or how you want to reduce your energy bill in the future.
- Why you are opposed to increasing the hidden mandatory fee!

**TAKE ACTION AT <http://bit.ly/stop-dukes-fee>**