

Antonia Hover

From: John Plescow
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 2:06 PM
To: Consumer Correspondence; Consina Griffin-Greaux; Diane Hood
Subject: FW: Managing higher energy bills

Please add to docket 20230001.

From: Consina Griffin-Greaux <CGriffin@psc.state.fl.us> **On Behalf Of** Consumer Contact
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 9:44 AM
To: John Plescow <JPlescow@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: FW: Managing higher energy bills

John, I believe this need to be logged with the Commissioner's office.

Thanks

C'Griffin

From: Donna Martin <martindm44@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 11:17 AM
To: Consumer Contact <Contact@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Fwd: Managing higher energy bills

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this morning to voice my concerns on the proposed 2023 rate increase by Duke Energy, which research tells me is for an estimated 20% per residential customer. Based on the letter attached, it is to recoup the rising cost of fuel and to provide clean energy. With that said, shouldn't the money be recovered from the federal government under the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act and the \$369 billion for energy security and to lower energy costs? An enormous bill which we will have all of us paying more in our 2023 taxes to cover the excessive governmental spending.

My main concern regarding this increase is for the elderly and low income in our community that can not absorb the increased costs. For those of us not living as close to the poverty level, we're still feeling the unbelievable increase in costs. We live in the City of Mount Dora and just in the last year we've seen large increases in property taxes, water, homeowners insurance, car insurance, electric costs (from the rate increase last year), groceries, fuel, and general merchandise. The difference is, we have no one to pass the costs to like these large corporations - we're truly at the bottom of the inflation impact scale. How long can the average person absorb all of these increases which average about 25% across the board when the medium wage increase (if one is even provided by an employer) is only about 2.8% to 3%? The answer is 'not very long'. With that said, please deny the proposed 2023 rate increase request by Duke Energy!

Regards,
Donna Martin

"To educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society."



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Duke Energy** <email@dukeenergyresidential.messages2.com>

Date: Tue, Mar 7, 2023 at 12:59 PM

Subject: Managing higher energy bills

To: <martindm44@gmail.com>



A message from Melissa Seixas to our Florida customers.

Dear Florida customers,

We understand that many of you continue to face increased financial pressure in all parts of your life. Across our country, household finances are being stretched thin by rising costs for goods and services, including the cost of electricity. At Duke Energy, we're committed to helping you through these challenging times, keeping your needs our priority.

To continue providing the safe, reliable, cleaner energy you deserve, the company recently filed with the Florida Public Service Commission an upward adjustment in residential electric bills for the recovery of rising fuel costs. If approved, the rate impact would begin with April 2023 billing.

The main factor driving these increases is the dramatically higher 2022 market price of fuel needed to run power plants. We do not profit from higher fuel costs; these costs are approved by the commission and passed directly to customers. [Watch our short video](#) to learn more.

We have been working on several fronts to help offset the effect of these unprecedentedly high fuel prices on customers' bills:

- Purchasing fuel at the best possible price and managing ongoing market volatility
- Pursuing a diverse fuel mix, including solar and other renewables, that decreases our dependence on high-priced fuels and lowers emissions

These efforts have and will continue to help our Florida customers. Fuel costs, as with any marketplace commodity, rise and fall over time. We have seen a recent downturn in fuel prices and customers will eventually see rate reductions if that trend continues. Despite this positive forecast, we understand that higher electric bills in 2023 remain an immediate concern, especially when combined with rising costs on so many other fronts. That is why we hope you will look into our many programs, tools and tips that can help you save energy and money, including:

Billing and Payment Programs

[Usage Alerts](#): Get midcycle billing alerts of current usage and your estimated final bill so you can adjust to help stay within budget.

[Budget Billing](#): Easily plan ahead with predictable monthly bills.

New Rates and Other Benefits

[Explore new ways](#) to help you reduce energy costs including reduced fees and flexible rates.

Free Home Assessment

[Find ways](#) to reduce your home's energy use, learn how to lower your bill and see if you qualify for rebates and free energy-saving products.

EnergyWise® Home

Save on your electric bill by getting up to \$141 in annual bill credits while helping your community reduce energy use during periods of high demand. [Find out if you are eligible](#).

Customer Assistance

Some customers may qualify for [financial assistance](#) from various government and nonprofit programs for utility bills and other household expenses.

You can find more [on our website](#). If you have questions or need assistance, please reach out to us. We're here to help.

Melissa Seixas
Duke Energy Florida State President

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