

# Coal ash:

## A shared responsibility

Duke Energy is safely closing ash basins in ways that protect the environment, local communities and energy costs for our customers.



The management of power plants – including plant retirements, ash basin closures and compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements that govern our work – is part of the normal operations of an energy company. And the cost of these services is typically paid for by customers.

For decades, reliable, affordable electricity in this state was made possible by coal. With coal came coal ash – the byproduct of decades of generating electricity from this resource.

It's a waste that was produced each time we turned on a light switch, watched a television or charged a mobile phone. In fact, a typical residential family today will generate more than 150 pounds of coal ash each year meeting their household energy needs.

Electric generation from coal has been declining in recent years, due largely to retirements of coal plants and expanded generation from natural gas. But we still must ensure that coal ash is responsibly managed, like we do with any byproduct, as we move toward a smarter energy future.

The cost of that service is a responsibility we all share as consumers of electricity, so that the public and the environment are protected now and in the future.

### Part of the reliable service we provide

The N.C. Utilities Commission ruled in 2018 that coal ash management, in compliance with state and federal regulations, is part of Duke Energy Progress' state mandate to provide reliable, affordable electricity, and that retail rates should include those prudent expenses.

Duke Energy customers will never pay for the company's response to the 2014 coal ash release at the Dan River Steam Station, or for any coal ash-related fines or penalties the company incurs. We take responsibility for our actions in those matters, and those costs were borne by Duke Energy shareholders.

### Permanently closing ash basins – strong progress in North Carolina

The company has taken important steps to strengthen its operations and develop thoroughly researched closure plans for the 31 basins at 14 North Carolina plants. More than 20 million tons of ash have been excavated in North Carolina since basin closure began in recent years.

Excavation has been completed for eight ash basins at the Asheville Plant (Asheville, N.C.), Dan River facility (Eden, N.C.), Riverbend Steam Station (Mount Holly, N.C.), Sutton facility (Wilmington, N.C.) and Rogers Energy Complex/Cliffside (Mooresboro, N.C.).

We have also made substantial progress in installing the permanent cap on Sutton Plant's new lined landfill, which is designed to withstand hurricane-force winds and rain.

We have taken all ash basins in North Carolina permanently out of service (other than one at Asheville Plant that will close in January 2020) and started removing the ponded water in the basins. The final ash basin at the Asheville Plant is on track to be excavated by its 2022 deadline.

For more information please visit [duke-energy.com/AshManagement](https://www.duke-energy.com/AshManagement).

