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Florence County to benefit Lynches River waterway with a \$68,200 grant from Duke Energy

Florence, South Carolina – Florence County received a \$68,200 grant to continue its commitment to protecting and enhancing regional waterways and the environment. The grant is part of the Water Resources Fund, a \$10 million commitment from Duke Energy.

Florence County is one of 16 organizations across North and South Carolina to collectively receive more than \$1.2 million in the seventh grant announcement. The Water Resources Fund is a multi-year commitment that will leave a legacy of improved water quality, quantity and conservation in the Carolinas and neighboring regions.

“This grant will help us better serve our community for years to come,” said K.G. Rusty Smith, County Administrator, Florence County. “We thank Duke Energy for its support and are eager to launch this project so that we can continue serving our local waterways.”

The Lynches River Boat and Kayak Access Project will provide access to areas along the Lynches River in Florence County, South Carolina currently inaccessible to boaters and kayakers due to debris. The grant funds will be used to open access in four priority areas: the Kayak area/Lynches River County Park, Indigo Landing to Venters Landing, Lynches River north end Snows Island to Snow Lake Landing and the removal of a tree north of Indigo Landing. In their current state, these areas prohibit use of the river as it was intended and makes contiguous travel down the beautiful waterway impossible. The debris caused loss of access, creating an adverse effect on recreation, tourism and business along the river. Citizens and tourist will benefit greatly from this project.

“Duke Energy is dedicated to protecting and restoring the rivers and waterways that power our regional economies,” said Kodwo Ghartey-Tagoe, president of Duke Energy in South Carolina. “We look forward to our partnership with Florence County and the impact this project will have in the region.”

Investment decisions are carefully reviewed by the Water Resources Fund committee, an independent body that includes five environmental experts and two Duke Energy employees. Selected projects are chosen on several criteria, including whether the project is science-based and research-supported.

Duke Energy anticipates two grant announcements per year over the course of the Water Resources Fund. Visit nccommunityfoundation.org for more information on how to apply and register for the session.

About Florence County

Florence County provides basic and necessary services consistent with the needs of its citizens in a cost-effective, efficient, and customer friendly manner.

County government assumes a proactive leadership role in determining the future direction of the county.

Florence County government exists to serve the needs of its citizens for a safe, secure, and healthy environment. It seeks to foster planned and managed growth and desirable economic development that creates prosperity and job opportunities for all its citizens.

About Duke Energy Foundation

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to address the needs of communities where its customers live and work. The foundation contributes more than \$33 million annually in charitable gifts.

The foundation's education focus spans kindergarten to career – particularly science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) – as well as early childhood literacy and workforce development. The foundation also supports environmental projects and community impact initiatives, including arts and culture. For more information, visit <http://www.duke-energy.com/foundation>.

The Duke Energy Foundation is part of Duke Energy (NYSE: DUK). Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Duke Energy is one of the largest energy holding companies in the U.S., with approximately 29,000 employees and a generating capacity of 49,500 megawatts. The company is transforming its customers' experience, modernizing its energy grid, generating cleaner energy and expanding its natural gas infrastructure to create a smarter energy future for the people and communities it serves.

A Fortune 125 company, Duke Energy was named to Fortune's 2018 "World's Most Admired Companies" list and Forbes' 2018 "America's Best Employers" list.

More information about the company is available at duke-energy.com. The [Duke Energy News Center](#) includes 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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