

The Blue Horizons Project

Setting the Course for Clean Energy

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

BUNCOMBE COUNTY · FOUNDED 1792 · NORTH CAROLINA

DUKE ENERGY®

EITF Goals from 2016

- Avoid or delay the construction of the 190-MW/$100 million natural gas-fired peaker plant planned for 2023.

- Transition to a cleaner, affordable, and smarter energy future in WNC, rooted in community engagement and collaboration that is mutually beneficial to the community, customers, and Duke Energy

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ASHEVILLE
CITY OF ASHEVILLE NORTH CAROLINA
GREENBUILT ALLIANCE
SUNDANCE POWER SYSTEMS
MISSION HEALTH
SIERRA CLUB
DUKE ENERGY.
Blue Horizons project
NEW BELGIUM BREWING
BILTMORE FARMS
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
SACEE
Self-Help
go
BCTDA

EITF Accomplishments

- Eliminated the need for the peaker plant
- Two micro-grids approved with local support – the first utility-scale micro-grids in the state
- 19 MW of battery storage - more than anywhere else in NC
- Pilot programs approved by NCUC for Buncombe County - Fee for Service upgrades for low-income families and cold climate heat pump pilot
- Advanced metering infrastructure deployed in Buncombe County ahead of schedule
- New Clean Cities collaboration with Duke Energy to help cities reach their renewable energy goals
- Blue Horizons Project launched in February 2018







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BHP Accomplishments

- Significant increases in Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Response programs
- Focus on multi-family energy efficiency
- 480 low-income homes weatherized since 2016
- Partnerships with Creation Care Alliance, Waste Reduction Partners, Community Action Opportunities, and Mountain Housing Opportunities furthered energy efficiency and solar in churches, multi-family housing, retirement communities, and businesses
- $370,000 in grants received
- 56 presentations, 57 community events, 4 interviews
- Active and growing website and social media presence
    - 300 visits per month to website
    - 600 followers on Facebook



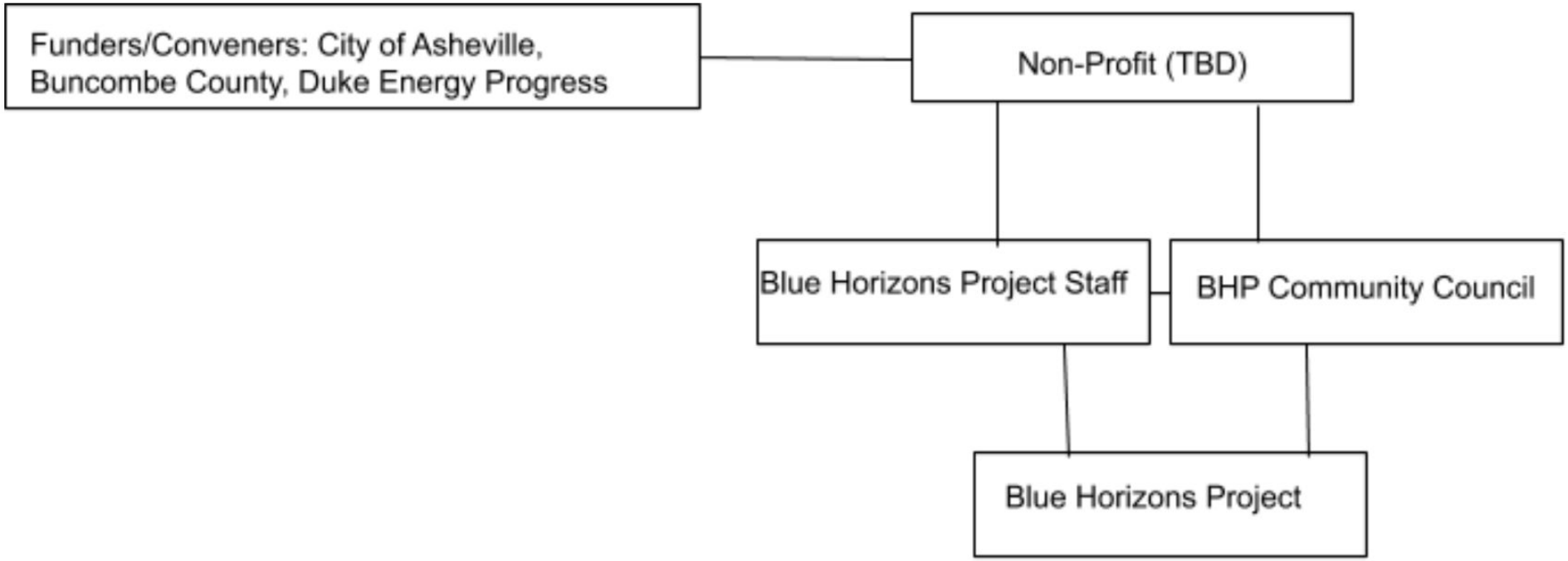




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Transition to Blue Horizons Project Community Council

BLUE HORIZONS PROJECT ORGANIZATION CHART



BHPCC Membership

- Residential Developer
- Affordable Housing Provider/Developer
- Commercial Developer
- Utility (local, technical, policy, program)
- Government (staff, political leadership, citizen advisory board)
- Public Sector; leaders beyond City and County (schools, AB Tech, Airport, MSD, other municipalities)
- Large Employers
- Business (large users, mid-size users, business associates, entrepreneurs)
- Large utility Users (plus rooftop owners)
- Non-Profit/Advocacy Organizations (LMI, Seniors, environmental, policy)
- Minority Voices
- Renewable energy installer, industry representative
- Energy Efficiency Professional (energy rater, HVAC expert)
- Alternative fuel transportation



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BHPCC Roles and Responsibilities

BLUE HORIZONS PROJECT COMMUNITY COUNCIL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	
ROLE	**RESPONSIBILITY**
Facilitator (nonprofit staff, non-voting)	A non-profit empowered to implement the deliverables of the Blue Horizons Project, select initial BHPCC members, host BHPCC meetings and take meeting minutes. Maintain website and post meeting information
Chair, Vice Chair	Coordinate with staff to set agendas, communicate with BHPCC members and run BHPCC meetings
Voting Members	Attend BHPCC meetings, participate in working groups and program initiatives, recommend additional partners and new members and participate in fundraising initiatives
Non-voting members: City and County sustainability staff	Report on public initiatives, public engagement opportunities and approved budgets
Working Groups	Convene subject matter experts to advise and advance specific objectives of the Blue Horizons Project. Report progress and recommendations on BHP to BHPCC.

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Scope of Work and Deliverables

- Support City and County in working towards 100% renewable energy for the community by 2042
- Continue core work of community engagement
- Conduct a series of listening sessions throughout the County to gather input for the community-wide renewable energy plan
- Scale up low-income weatherization work to 350 homes in FY 20-21, 450 in FY 21-22, and 550 in FY 22-23
- Develop programs to help businesses and residents install solar - Solarize Campaigns, low-income solar program
- Support the City and County to achieve their 100% renewable operational goal as quickly as possible
- Implement Cool Communities groups
- Continue the collaborative partnership of the EITF through Blue Horizons Project Community Council

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