

July 2026

Hello ChathamCAN Community,

Essential information on extreme heat shared. Connections made. Relationships nurtured. And great eats! All this and more at our **Stay Safe and Save Money** resource fair in Siler City.



Much gratitude to the presenters, community organizations, hosts and sponsors and everyone who came to the event.

For essential information about how you can care for yourself and your family during extreme heat and what Chatham County is doing to protect residents, go to the ChathamCAN page: [Extreme Heat](#)

Help spread the word that **FREE RIDES** are available to anyone (no age limit or disability requirement) to the cooling centers (Chatham Community Library, Pittsboro; Wren Memorial Library, Siler City; and Goldston Public Library. Call (919) 542-5136 and ask for a ride to a cooling center. This free service with **Chatham Transit** is provided through the **Chatham Health Department** and must be used to continue future availability.

Please share information about how homeowners and renters in Chatham County can reduce utility bills through [Energy Saver NC](#) and get help applying for these rebates through [EnergyFundsforAll.org](#) Applicants may receive up to \$16,000 toward new appliances, better insulation, or other purchases that help a home consume electricity more efficiently. That might include: heat pumps, energy-efficient HVAC units, electric stoves and air sealing. Renters and multifamily building owners can apply, though renters require approval from their landlord. The program is targeted toward low-income families. Please share with people who might benefit.

CALLS FOR ACTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out and share the [Reuters Climate Monitor](#) website that shows how daily temperatures compare to historic averages. Writing on July 4, 2026 - the temperature in Pittsboro was forecast to be 100 degrees! That is **13.3 degrees above normal!**

Applications for the next **Waste Reduction Enthusiast Program (WREP)** cohort are open now until August 1st! You can apply for the program [here](#). Or you can learn more about the program at chathamcountync.gov/wrep.

Are you a reader? Interested in a discussion group?

We focus on climate solutions for Chatham County. We haven't talked about what other countries are doing and the global picture but zoom out for a while for the global picture with [The Global Justice Report](#). In this report, the World Inequality Lab presents their "vision for global progress in the 21st century; grounding human development and equality in planetary habitability." They evaluate the conditions under which the world could manage climatic impacts and present "an economically and ecologically consistent transition path from 2026 to 2100." " Check it out and if you're interested in a discussion group, let us know. Send an email to chathamclimateaction@gmail.com

Join or keep up with the **Fight Against the Enbridge Pipeline** with Haw River Assembly [here](#), on Facebook at [Fight Enbridge Pipeline Chatham County](#), or sign the petition in opposition [here](#)

UPDATES and FOLLOW UP

Duke Energy Rate Hikes Thanks to those of you who spoke, attended or submitted comments in opposition to Duke Energy's request for an 18% residential rate increase. In a first, Duke has reduced its request to 11.6%. The company adjusted its request following pushback from customers, the state Public Staff, and Attorney General Jeff Jackson. More than 200 people spoke out, even more attended hearings and more than 40,000 written comments were suggested. But the rate request is still too high and the process continues. Stay tuned.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL

We're talking with teachers, group leaders, young people and others. We're listening to learn how we can involve youth in ChathamCAN and climate solutions and support them in their climate goals. **Do you know of people we should be talking with? Are you interested in helping with this project?** Reply to this email to let us know. And look forward to more in the fall

And school will be starting before we know it! Want to help kids and their families get ready? Help spread the word about a **Free Bookbag & School Supplies Giveaway (with lunch!)** on **Saturday, July 25 10:00-2:00** at the Chatham Agricultural Fairgrounds. ChathamCAN will have a table there.



WHAT WE'RE READING/WATCHING/LISTENING TO

(send us your favorites!)

Listen

On Air Today: Heat Awareness Week with Chatham County Environmental Health Director James Tiger [podcast](#) (7 minutes) at Chapelboro.com

[The Very Good and Very Bad News on Climate](#) NYT's Ezra Klein Interviews Bill McKibben

Read

[A Pipeline Company Says It Will Protect the Environment in North Carolina. Its Record in Tennessee Says Otherwise.](#) From *Inside Climate News* by Lisa Sorg

[What's driving up your expenses? Many Americans say climate change.](#) Grist

[Extreme Heat is Everyone's Problem](#) Katharine Hayhoe

[Climate Activists Take on a New Foe: Data Centers](#) Grist

[New Trump rules make it more costly to electrify North Carolina homes](#) Canary Media

Watch

Great, uplifting conversation by two giants (and they're scientists!). **Project Drawdown's** Jon Foley and **The Nature Conservancy's** Katharine Hayhoe [Where does climate action go from here?](#)

With hope and in community,

Betsy, Lenore, Maura, Meredith and Vickie - organizing for ChathamCAN

P.S. Please forward this email to others who might be interested in being a part of ChathamCAN. Let us know if you'd like for us to remove you from our mailing list.