



April 2026

Hello ChathamCAN Community,

Happy Earth Month (and Earth Day - April 22)! "Our Power, Our Planet" is the theme this year, highlighting the urgent need for a shift to renewable energy and individual/community action to combat climate change. Our next Community Conversation will look at mutual aid in a time of climate chaos and social vulnerability. It will take place **Wed, April 29 at the Habitat for Humanity conference room** (see details below). This will give us another rich opportunity to talk together about what we're currently doing in Chatham County and where we're headed. Please join us!

CALLS FOR ACTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Conversation on Mutual Aid

Please join us for a conversation about mutual aid in a time of climate chaos and social vulnerability to be held: **Wednesday, April 29 6 - 8pm** at the **Habitat for Humanity Conference Room**, 467 West St, Pittsboro. **Light meal provided.**

As the climate crisis has begun to impact people's most basic needs, mutual aid networks have been a powerful source of support - efficient and in tune with the needs of the community. Join us for a discussion of how mutual aid networks are already working here in Chatham County and the surrounding area and how they can contribute to long term community sustainability. Panelists include Sara Martin, who organized the community resource hub in Chatham during COVID; Aylin Sotelo with Chatham Resiste; and Laura Paye who is organizing mutual aid networks in two neighborhoods in Durham <http://www.bbdurham.com/>.

Join the Bridge Brigade Saturday, April 18, 9:30 - 11:00 am.

The focus will be Earth Day. Large signs on the bridge will say **CLEAN ENERGY NOW** and **THERE IS NO PLANET B**. Pittsboro, US 64 @ Chatham Park Way. Bridge Captains: Joanna and Keith. Register [here](#) (scroll down to Pittsboro)

Katharine Hayhoe is coming!

Hayhoe is chief scientist for the Nature Conservancy, author of *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*, and an exceptional communicator. Here are two nearby opportunities to see her:

EARTH WEEK KEYNOTE: Katharine Hayhoe, "Solving Climate Change Starts With Us (But Not The Way You Think!)" | Mckinnon Hall, Moseley Center Elon University Wednesday, April 22 (Earth Day!) 7:00-8:00 PM

"What can I do?" is most people's top climate question. "The truth is, while our personal choices matter, the most important action any of us can take isn't changing a lightbulb, eating a plant-

based burger, or buying an electric vehicle (EV). Drawing on lessons from science, history, and social movements, Dr. Hayhoe shows how using our voices to call for systemic change is the first step towards catalyzing the tipping points that will help us build a better future. Solving climate change does start with us—but in ways far more powerful than we might imagine.”

[Climate Solutions at Duke University: Conversation with Katharine Hayhoe](#) a fireside chat in person at Goodson Chapel, Duke Divinity School - Open to all - reception to follow. Thursday, April 23 at 5pm.

Chatham Transit Network is Chatham County’s source of public transit, a potential climate solution if ridership can be increased. They are currently seeking dedicated community members to serve on the Board of Directors. Click [here](#) for more information or to apply for a board position.

[Energy Saver NC](#) is now available in Chatham County and across the state. The program offers residents rebates on household upgrades that reduce monthly utility bills. 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 this information with people who might benefit.

Speak Out Against Duke’s Proposed Rate Hikes!

The closest NC Utilities Hearing will be in Durham on May 12 at 7pm at the Durham County Courthouse. There will be a rally before the hearing. You can also submit comments [online](#) (be sure to include the Docket number in your comments: Docket E-2 SUB 1300 if your utility is Duke Energy Progress and Docket E-7 Sub 1276 for Duke Energy Carolinas.. For more information about background, dates, talking points see [Energy Funds for All](#).

Fast facts:

- Energy bills in North Carolina have gone up by 22% from 2020 to 2025
- Duke Energy still wants to raise residential energy rates by 18%.
- On your bill, this increase will be between \$25-\$30 per month by January of 2028.
- Actual increases WILL be higher because this rate increase does not include increases in fuel costs

Bike Chatham!

Calling all bike enthusiasts in Chatham County! Whether you bike for recreation or transportation, we’re convening a team of folks who are interested in creating better bike infrastructure across the county. We need your vision, ideas, creativity, and energy. Please send an email with your interest to Lenore at chathamclimateaction@gmail.com.

UPDATES and FOLLOW UP

County Board of Commissioners

Request for Proposals for development of a Chatham County Climate Action Plan is underway!

UPCOMING

Climate Solutions Fair

Saturday, May 30, 2026 12 noon - 4:00pm at The Plant in collaboration with Haw River Assembly. Live music, interactive demos, kids' activities, film screening and panel discussion. **Join our community bike ride** and help make bikes more visible in Chatham County! On Saturday, May 30, we'll meet at the Pittsboro Pop-Up Park (50 West Salisbury St.) at 9:30. At 9:45, we'll ride as a group two miles through downtown Pittsboro to The Plant, where you can enjoy the Climate Solutions Fair, with info and activities for all ages. Families with young children can join the bike ride at 10:00 am from the SECU parking lot (630 East St.) for the last .8 mile on a quiet road. Together let's show our community that bikes matter! For more info please contact chathamclimateaction@gmail.com

Stay Safe and Save Money: Community Resource Fair on Extreme Heat & Rising Energy Costs! Sponsored by ChathamCAN in collaboration with our members in Siler City and the western part of the County. The resource fair will be held at Holy Trinity Church Fellowship Hall in Siler City, Saturday, June 27, 10am-2pm. Rising temperatures and energy costs are putting real strain on our community. Join us for a free, in-person resource fair with practical tools to stay safe in the heat and manage rising electricity bills — including information on assistance programs that may help. And lunch!

LONGER TERM

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 stay tuned.

WHAT WE'RE READING/WATCHING/LISTENING TO

(send us your favorites!)

Listen

A Matter of Degrees: [The Long Arc of Climate Action with Gina McCarthy](#)

Read

Updates on Earth Day <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2026/>

North Carolina Environmental Justice Network weekly [newsletter](#). Packed with important information

Sunrise Movement [Rising to the Moment: Why the Climate Movement Must Tackle Authoritarianism](#)

Watch

Rebecca Solnit Discusses ["The Beginning Comes After the End"](#) With Anand Giridharadas

If you haven't seen it yet, be sure to watch NC Warn's short documentary about Duke Energy: [The True Cost of Power](#).

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.