Duke Energy Foundation funds classroom projects

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — Through a $200,000 matching gift, the Duke Energy Foundation is teaming up with teachers to turn potential classroom projects into a reality.

Duke Energy is partnering with DonorsChoose.org to help South Carolina teachers develop projects that enhance childhood literacy and foster a growing interest in science and technology fields.

"Our children are the future leaders of our communities, and it is imperative that we contribute to their success," Duke Energy's South Carolina state president Clark Gillespy said. "By working with DonorsChoose.org, we can quickly get resources directly into the hands of the dedicated teachers who daily impact the lives of students across the state."

Public school teachers can submit proposals for projects related to literacy or science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) for up to $500 to DonorsChoose.org, where the public can provide funding.

The Duke Energy Foundation will match, dollar-for-dollar, all donations made toward eligible STEM and literacy projects at public schools in the company's South Carolina service area, up to $250 per project. That means the $200,000 matching gift will truly have a $400,000 impact on students in the state.

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to address the needs of the communities where its customers live and work. In 2015, the foundation provided more than $30 million in charitable gifts.

The foundation's education focus spans kindergarten to career, particularly STEM, early childhood literacy and workforce development. It also supports environmental and community impact initiatives, including arts and culture.

"We're deeply grateful for Duke Energy's support of South Carolina STEM and literacy projects," DonorsChoose.org founder Charles Best said. "So many local teachers will now have tools they need to teach and inspire our next generation of leaders."

Teachers can visit DonorsChoose.org/teachers to submit a project. Qualifying projects already posted to the site will automatically be eligible for Duke Energy's matching funds.

Parents and other members of the community can contribute to these projects through DonorsChoose.org and search projects by either school name or project category: STEM or literacy.