Duke Energy to match customer gifts

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CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Duke Energy is contributing $500,000 through its Share the Warmth program to help customers in need of assistance with their winter energy bills.

The company also is inviting its customers, employees and shareholders to join the annual effort.

Giving to this energy assistance program is easy. Information on ways to contribute can be found in bill inserts for both paper and online service customers or by visiting www.duke-energy.com/share-the-warmth.

Contributions can also be sent directly to Share the Warmth Fund, The Duke Energy Foundation, P.O. Box 35469, Charlotte, N.C. 28254-3429.

"The sluggish economy and high unemployment can create financial hardships for a growing number of friends and neighbors in our communities," Gianna Manes, Duke Energy's chief customer officer, said.

"As I travel across the Carolinas, I see glimpses of economic recovery, but still hear from customers every day who may not recover for many years," she said. "Let's not look past our friends, neighbors and fellow Carolinians as they reach out for help this winter — let's all Share the Warmth."

The Duke Energy Foundation will match dollar-for-dollar the first $500,000 in customer contributions, helping to stretch the money given by customers to their communities.

One hundred percent of the Share the Warmth Campaign contributions go to help people struggling with energy bills. The program is funded through customer contributions, Duke Energy Carolinas' off-system sales and the Duke Energy Foundation.

Share the Warmth began in 1985. Since that time, more than $28 million has been distributed to local agencies in North Carolina and South Carolina. During last year's campaign, customer contributions increased by more than 7.6 percent over the previous campaign.