

Press Release

November 4, 2021

Taking Root to power local communities with \$10,000 grant from Duke Energy Foundation

- **Grant to support Taking Root's Tree For Me Neighborhood Distributions**
- **Taking Root is one of 14 organizations to collectively receive \$170,000 in Powerful Communities grants from Duke Energy Foundation**

Cincinnati, Ohio – Taking Root received a \$10,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation to create powerful communities in tristate neighborhoods through the Tree For Me neighborhood tree distribution program.

Taking Root is one of 14 organizations in southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky to collectively receive \$170,000 in grants from the Duke Energy Foundation. Taking Root will be activating tree distribution campaigns in local communities during prime tree planting seasons of the spring and fall of 2022. Tree For Me is a web-based tree benefit calculator providing residents the ability to virtually place a tree on their property and see stormwater, air quality, and carbon dioxide benefits at any location in the Greater Cincinnati area.

“Duke Energy is committed to the communities we serve and our Foundation’s Powerful Communities program enables regional vibrancy. We’re pleased to support Taking Root and their focus on building climate resiliency.” Amy Spiller, President, Duke Energy Ohio and Kentucky.

This program will use the new Tree For Me tool powered and developed by Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI). This tool is available for anyone’s use at <https://www.oki.org/portfolio-items/tree-for-me/>. A user selects a tree species common in the region and that is to be planted in a location of their choosing. Images and descriptions of each species helps the user select the most suitable tree for that particular spot.

Taking Root uses this tool to activate tree giveaways in local communities. The funding will provide trees in 2022 to the communities of Avondale, Bond Hill, Roselawn, and Walnut Hills in Ohio, and Boone County, in Kentucky. Based on current tree canopy, heat island, and demographic data, these locations are deemed to benefit the most from added tree canopy. Taking Root has partnered with the Civic Garden Center to promote the availability of Trees For Me to neighborhood residents. The trees provided to residents in this program are supplied by Natorp’s and will include a variety of species with various maturity sizes to accommodate any property.

“The end result of this program will be to have meaningfully engaged 180 households in low-income communities through a simple, unique, and exciting tree distribution that informs participants of specific environmental and health benefits of trees and will encourage better stewardship of our tree canopy”, explains Kris Stone, Taking Root President.

TAKING ROOT

Taking Root is a non-profit organization with a vision for a vibrant tree canopy, now and for generations to come, in the Greater Cincinnati Tri-State region. With a mission to inspire and empower all to conserve and improve our region's unique and threatened tree canopy, Taking Root has provided over 1,000 trees to residents in the region through the Tree For Me program (formerly known as Energy Saving Trees).

Collectively, shade from these trees will be saving residents over 500,000 kWh of energy use, sequestering over 2 million pounds of carbon, intercepting over 10 million gallons of stormwater, and absorbing more than 7,500 pounds of air pollutants each year. www.takingroot.info

DUKE ENERGY FOUNDATION

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to meet the needs of communities where Duke Energy's customers live and work. The foundation contributes more than \$30 million annually in charitable gifts, and is funded by Duke Energy shareholder dollars. More information about the foundation and its Powerful Communities program can be found at duke-energy.com/foundation.

Duke Energy (NYSE: DUK), a Fortune 125 company headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., is one of the largest energy holding companies in the U.S. It employs 30,000 people and has an electric generating capacity of 51,000 megawatts through its regulated utilities, and 3,000 megawatts through its nonregulated Duke Energy Renewables unit.

Duke Energy is transforming its customers' experience, modernizing the energy grid, generating cleaner energy and expanding natural gas infrastructure to create a smarter energy future for the people and communities it serves. The Electric Utilities and Infrastructure unit's regulated utilities serve approximately 7.7 million retail electric customers in six states – North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. The Gas Utilities and Infrastructure unit distributes natural gas to more than 1.6 million customers in five states – North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky. The Duke Energy Renewables unit operates wind and solar generation facilities across the U.S., as well as energy storage and microgrid projects.

Duke Energy was named to Fortune's 2019 "World's Most Admired Companies" list, and Forbes' 2018 "America's Best Employers" list. More information about the company is available at duke-energy.com. The [Duke Energy News Center](#) contains news releases, fact sheets, photos, videos and other materials. Duke Energy's [illumination](#) features stories about people, innovations, community topics and environmental issues. Follow Duke Energy on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).