



For immediate release
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Tampa Bay Watch to power Tampa Bay community with a \$10,000 grant from Duke Energy Foundation

Tierra Verde, Fla. – Tampa Bay Watch received a \$10,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation to create powerful communities in Tampa Bay through their Bay Grasses in Classes initiative.

- **Grant to support Bay Grasses in Classes, which provides middle and high school students with an educational resource to learn about ecological practices while enhancing science-based curriculums at their schools and building environmental stewardship.**
- **Tampa Bay Watch is one of 10 organizations to collectively receive \$355,000 in Powerful Communities grants from Duke Energy Foundation**

“Tampa Bay Watch is grateful to have received this generous grant from the Duke Energy Foundation,” said Peter A. Clark, president and founder of Tampa Bay Watch. “We are appreciative that Duke Energy has chosen to invest in one of our founding programs. Bay Grasses in Classes has helped to restore more than 170 acres of habitat around Tampa Bay and provided over 385,000 plugs of school-grown wetland grasses over the last 24 years.”

Tampa Bay Watch grant is one of 10 totaling \$355,000 awarded to 10 organizations in Florida from the Duke Energy Foundation. Tampa Bay Watch’s Bay Grasses in Classes program provides middle and high school students the opportunity to improve their community through environmental service-learning projects. Students in the program participate in restoration activities around the Tampa Bay Watershed including wetland plantings, biological monitoring at restoration sites, marine debris cleanups, and living shoreline creation. Bay Grasses in Classes provides a combination of field-based and classroom curricula to educate students on the importance of coastal habitats while motivating them to act as stewards of the estuary.

“We are proud to provide this grant to a community partner like Tampa Bay Watch to support its transformative work to protect Florida’s natural resources and educate our children,” said Catherine Stempien, Duke Energy Florida state president. “This grant will help them continue the good work they do every day to protect, restore and rehabilitate our state’s environmental treasures and resources.”

The Duke Energy Foundation’s Powerful Communities program makes strategic investments to build powerful communities where natural resources thrive, students can excel, and a talented workforce drives economic prosperity for all. The Foundation annually

funds more than \$30 million to communities throughout Duke Energy's seven-state service area, including about \$3 million in Florida.

Tampa Bay Watch is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) stewardship program dedicated exclusively to the charitable and scientific purpose of protecting and restoring the marine and wetland environments of the Tampa Bay estuary encompassing more than 400 square miles of open water and 2,300 square miles of highly developed watershed. Tampa Bay Watch involves more than 10,000 youth and adult volunteers each year in hands on habitat restoration projects. For more information on upcoming events, or to become a volunteer or member, visit www.tampabaywatch.org, or call 727-867-8166. Follow Tampa Bay Watch on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

DUKE ENERGY FOUNDATION

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to meet the needs of communities where Duke Energy 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 150 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 2020 "World's Most Admired Companies" list, and Forbes' 2019 "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](#).

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