



Lynn Good learned early in her career that leadership does not stop when you leave the office.

As a young professional at Arthur Andersen, she was expected to be involved in the community. It occasionally felt, as she put it, forced. “But looking back on it,” she says, “it was one of the most important aspects of the job.”

Over time, Good came to believe that when business leaders get involved in their communities, they can effect real change, and that businesses are strongly linked to the vitality of their communities.

That belief would shape her approach to Duke Energy’s role in North Carolina and the responsibility business leaders have to the people and communities they serve. It also helps explain why, even after retiring as chair and CEO of Duke Energy in 2025, Good remains highly engaged in North Carolina communities.

Raised by parents whose values were shaped by the Great Depression, Good grew up in a home that emphasized hard work, discipline and personal responsibility.

“No excuses,” Good recalls. “You just got to work.” She notes that it was a structured childhood, but a loving one she remembers with gratitude.

Good went on to study systems analysis and accounting at Miami University in Ohio – a foundation that taught her to think critically about how individual decisions connect to broader outcomes. She then began her career at Arthur Andersen, where she spent nearly 20 years and eventually became a partner.

The firm taught her the importance of client service, urgency and developing people. Good carried those lessons to Duke Energy where she worked her way through roles in finance, commercial energy, and eventually to CFO before becoming CEO in 2013.

Good stepped into the top role at a difficult moment. Duke Energy was navigating a significant internal transition following a merger, and within six months, the Dan River event put the company at the center of a public crisis. For Good, the path forward was not easy, but her priorities were clear: refocus the organization on operational excellence and rebuild trust. “Working to restore confidence that Duke Energy is the company that does the right thing and would work every day to achieve the highest standards of safety, reliability and sustainable efficiency was essential to our path forward,” she says. “And that’s exactly what we did – we came at every challenge as an opportunity for improvement.”

Over the course of her tenure, Good led the company through some of the greatest periods of transformation the industry has ever experienced – the digital evolution, customer experience journey, and energy modernization to address growing energy demand – ultimately cementing Duke Energy as a leading utility.

For Good, success was never defined by one metric alone. Financial success, she believed, was the result of doing many things well. Safe operations. Engaged employees. Satisfied customers. Rigorous regulatory compliance. Genuine community partnership. “If we have engaged employees and satisfied customers and we build on our long track record of regulatory compliance,” she says, “then financial success will come.”

Good brought this same way of thinking to Duke Energy’s role in North Carolina’s future. She describes it as a virtuous cycle: economic development does not happen without infrastructure, infrastructure does not happen without community support, and none of it happens without business and government working together. “There’s no way to say I’m going to be really good at one thing,” she says. “You’ve got to figure out how to be good at all of those things.” For Good, North Carolina’s success depended on leaders across sectors working together to do exactly that.

Good believes strongly in the power of public-private partnerships, and Duke Energy was proud to assume a prominent role in that work. In a fast-growing state like North Carolina, she views the company’s role as central to engaging the right stakeholders to meet increasing energy needs and providing the critical infrastructure businesses and communities depend on to grow.

No single institution, she emphasizes, can do everything on its own. Progress depends on leaders who are willing to work together.

Through her commitment to collaboration, Good helped found the Charlotte Executive Leadership Council in 2015. By bringing together the city’s top CEOs to develop shared priorities around education, transportation, and public safety, the council strengthened Charlotte’s long legacy of business leadership and its imprint on the city.

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For Good, those collaborations reflect something larger about what makes North Carolina successful. “As the state gets bigger and the issues get more complex,” she says, “the way you solve them is by bringing people together.”

When she reflects on her tenure, Good puts it simply: “Duke is stronger than when I took the reins. The company has a clear vision for the future, a strong team and a demonstrated commitment to safe, reliable operations for our customers and communities.

We have also worked hard to restore trust and confidence in the company, and I know under Harry Sideris’ leadership that important work will continue.”

Since retiring, Good remains curious and engaged. She serves on several boards, travels with her husband Brian, and reads for pleasure rather than work. This summer, she will attend a week-long course at Oxford on listening to classical music – one of many new experiences she is now making time to pursue.

Good continues to be involved in the arts, especially ballet, which has long been a source of beauty and fulfillment for her. She is also quick to note that she knows more about NFL football and Formula One racing than most people would expect.

Her advice to the next generation of leaders is simple: get involved. Not just as a gesture, but as a practice. “It’s not just being a good steward of the community,” she says. “It’s taking your skills into an organization that could benefit from them and learning something along the way.”

Good has lived that philosophy throughout her career, proving that leadership extends beyond the boardroom. When business leaders invest in their communities, they help shape something bigger than themselves – and one thing is for certain, North Carolina is stronger for Good’s leadership.