

Executive Profile



William (Kevin) McLaughlin Jr.
Vice President
Government Affairs and External Relations

Kevin McLaughlin serves as vice president of government affairs and external relations for Duke Energy in North Carolina. He leads the groups responsible for the state's government and community relations strategies. This includes managing strategic relationships with the governor's office, executive branch agencies, legislators, local officials and communities.

Before joining Duke Energy in January 2020, McLaughlin served as policy director for the U.S. Government and Education practice at SAS Institute. In this role, he was the principal liaison to governors, attorneys general and legislative leadership to increase brand awareness and encourage the adoption of data-driven strategies.

Prior to joining SAS, McLaughlin was the deputy chief of staff for the governor of North Carolina. He managed all sections of the Office of the Governor and worked directly with Cabinet secretaries and agencies to develop and implement executive branch priorities. He also led legislative negotiations for bipartisan reform to both North Carolina workers and tort laws. Before serving in the governor's office, he was chief operating officer and general counsel for the N.C. Department of Administration. Prior to his public service, McLaughlin was a litigation attorney and partner in The Van Winkle Law Firm in Asheville, N.C.

McLaughlin currently serves on the executive committee for the Raleigh Chamber. He is a member of Class XVI of Leadership North Carolina, past member of the board of visitors for the University of North Carolina and former chair of the advisory board of the Y-Guides of the Triangle. He has also served as secretary for the American Council of Young Political Leaders.

McLaughlin received a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Juris Doctor from Wake Forest University. He is a member of the North Carolina State Bar. He is an Eagle Scout and a recipient of The Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award.

Duke Energy, one of the largest energy holding companies in the United States, supplies and delivers electric services to approximately 8.2 million customers in the Southeast and Midwest. The company also distributes natural gas services to approximately 1.6 million customers in the Carolinas, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Duke Energy is a Fortune 150 company traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DUK.