

# North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light

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## Introduction

### Why Usable Energy Burden Data is Needed

- Energy burden is not widely appreciated as a major barrier to economic opportunity and security
- Existing LEAD data tool is limited, under-documented, and generates graphics that are not compelling or accessible.
- Few advocates, elected leaders, or reporters are aware of the LEAD data
- Most data on energy costs is not explicitly connected to data on poverty, race, education level, or other factors shaping access to economic opportunities

A report will examine the landscape of energy costs in North Carolina, with particular emphasis on how disparate energy costs exacerbate economic disparities across communities, racial and ethnic groups, and levels of income. This foundational analysis will fill a glaring hole in the current discussion over energy policy in North Carolina. While per-unit energy costs in North Carolina are lower than many other states on average, many working North Carolinians struggle to afford their energy bills.

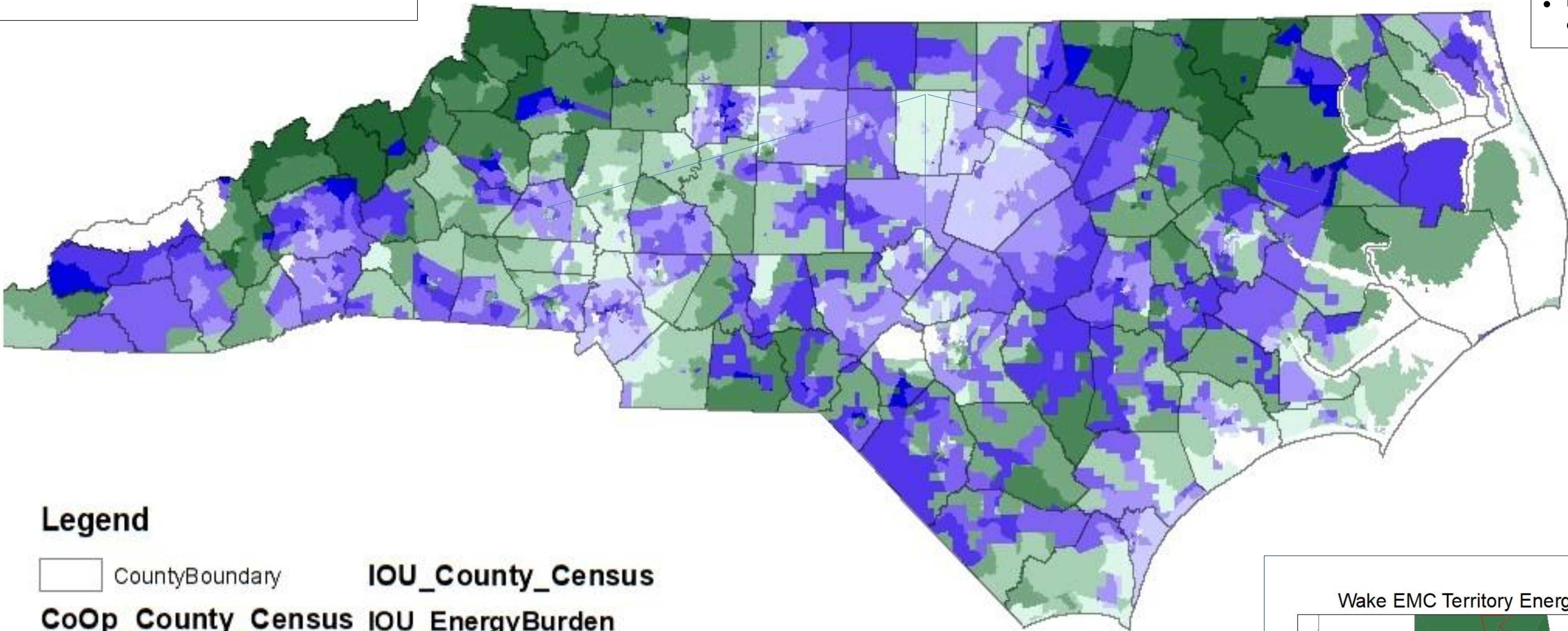
## emPOWERed

### Toward a comprehensive decentralized energy strategy for communities

## Energy Burden is % of Income spent on electric + gas + heating

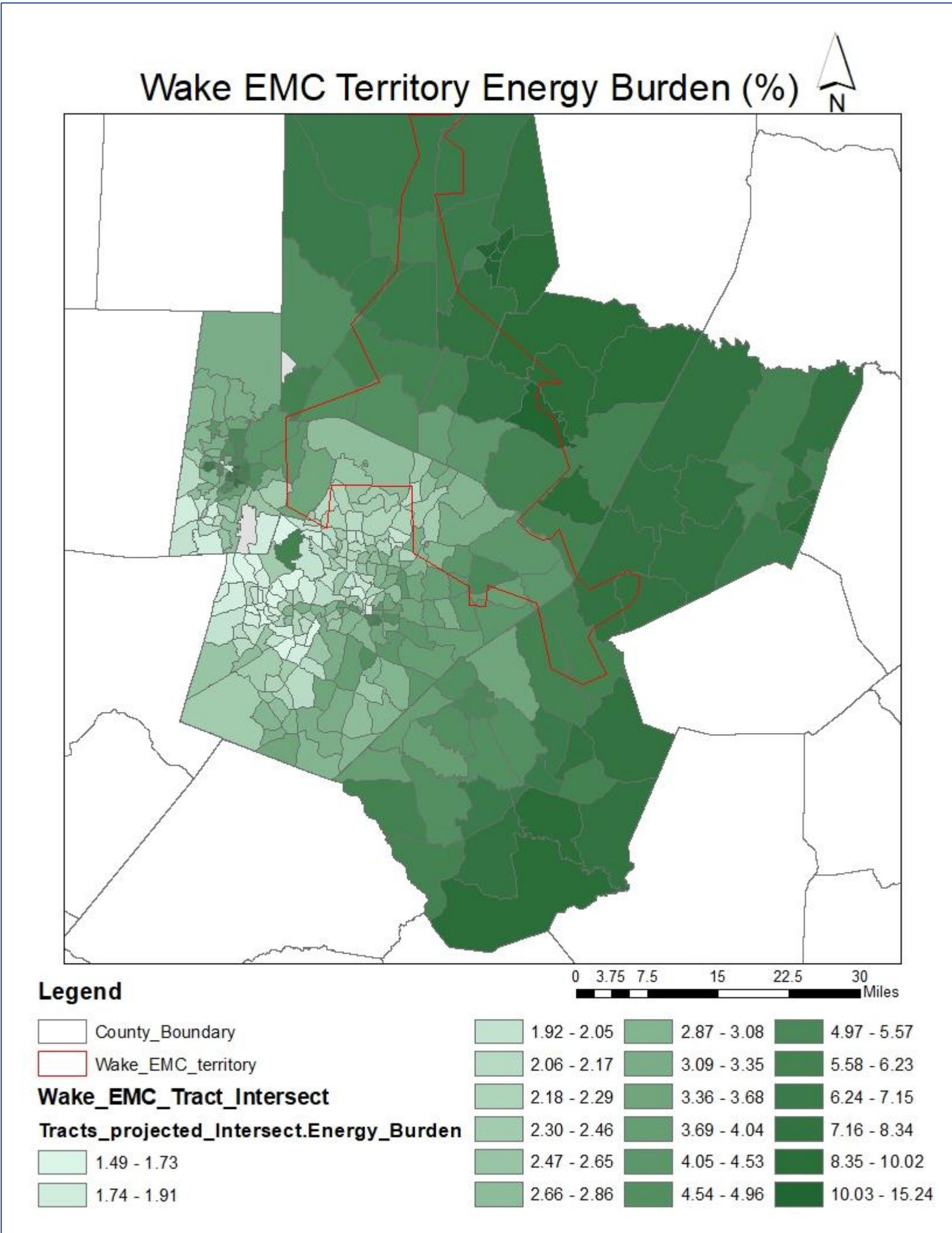
## Use-cases

- Applications for Organizing/Outreach Resources to be Produced:
- Use to prioritize community or neighborhood-level outreach efforts where energy burden is highest
  - County-level, utility service territory factsheets - multiple uses, such as new/earned media, tools for meetings with utility, state, or local decision makers
  - Maps and visualization tools for presentations and workshops on energy, energy efficiency, housing, and related topics
  - My County Energy Profile
  - Energy burden distribution by utility service type/territory
  - Housing & electricity costs side by side
  - Energy burden by demographic & income level
  - Training tool for new activists - how to use data in storytelling
  - Fact sheet describing where intervention programs (utility or government) are falling short
  - Analysis of WAP/LIHEAP penetration in community, compared to need
  - Analysis of need compared to utility's EE offering
  - Overlay of energy burden with fossil fuel and/or industry infrastructure information - coal plants/coal ash pits, pipelines, landfills, etc. (Potentially use EPA EJ Screen here)
  - Use to identify potential community campaign "anchors," such as congregations, in affected communities



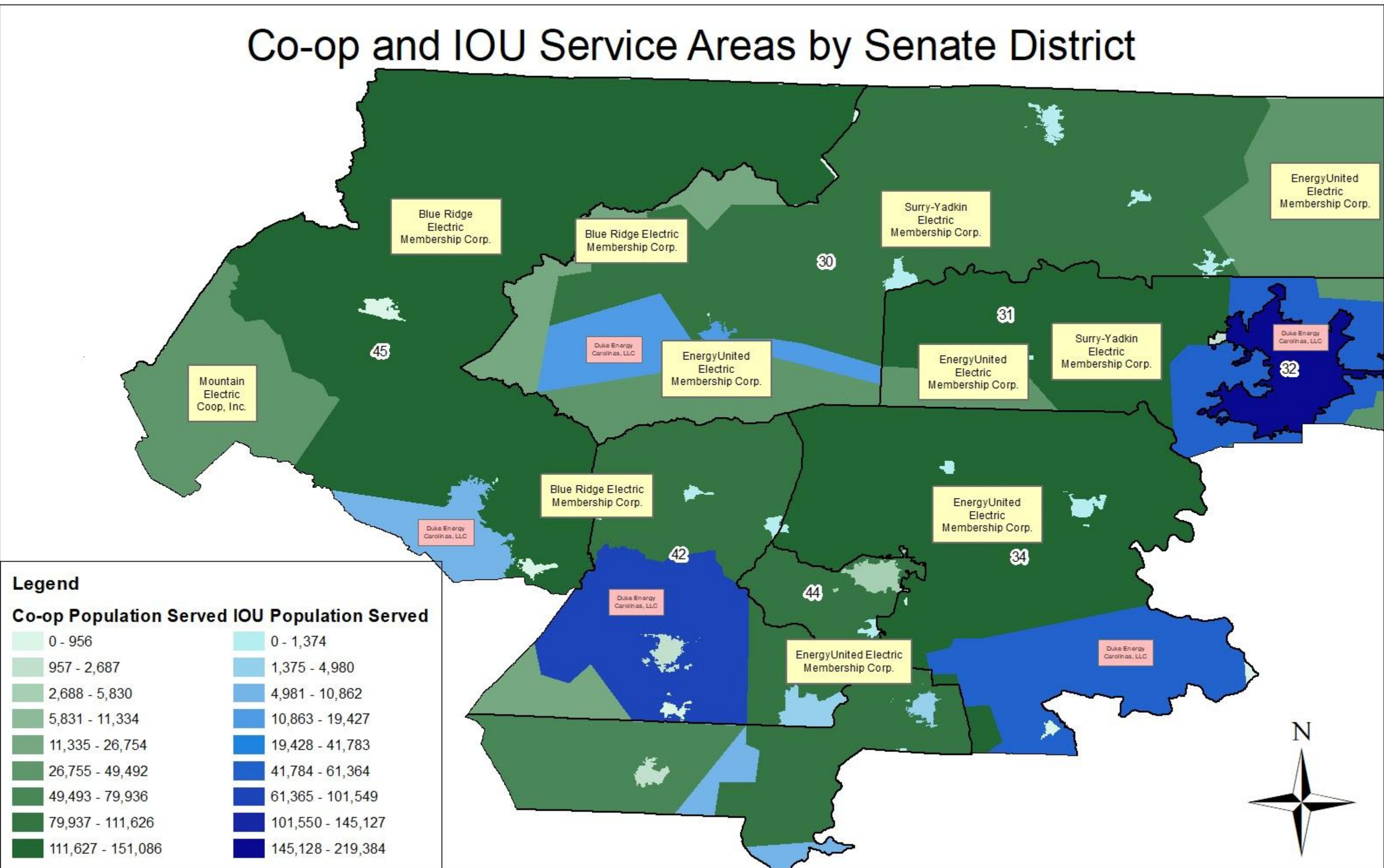
### Legend

CountyBoundary	IOU_County_Census
CoOp_County_Census	IOU_EnergyBurden
Co-Op_EnergyBurden	0.009055 - 0.035578
0.015811 - 0.047108	0.035579 - 0.054562
0.047109 - 0.068441	0.054563 - 0.074977
0.068442 - 0.089141	0.074978 - 0.104211
0.089142 - 0.117328	0.104212 - 0.203225
0.117329 - 0.203225	



### Legend

County_Boundary	1.92 - 2.05	2.87 - 3.08	4.97 - 5.57
Wake_EMC_territory	2.06 - 2.17	3.09 - 3.35	5.58 - 6.23
Wake_EMC_Tract_Intersect	2.18 - 2.29	3.36 - 3.68	6.24 - 7.15
Tracts_projected_Intersect_Energy_Burden	2.30 - 2.46	3.69 - 4.04	7.16 - 8.34
1.49 - 1.73	2.47 - 2.65	4.05 - 4.53	8.35 - 10.02
1.74 - 1.91	2.66 - 2.86	4.54 - 4.96	10.03 - 15.24



### Legend

Co-op Population Served	IOU Population Served
0 - 956	0 - 1,374
957 - 2,687	1,375 - 4,980
2,688 - 5,830	4,981 - 10,862
5,831 - 11,334	10,863 - 19,427
11,335 - 26,754	19,428 - 41,783
26,755 - 49,492	41,784 - 61,364
49,493 - 79,936	61,365 - 101,549
79,937 - 111,626	101,550 - 145,127
111,627 - 151,086	145,128 - 219,384

## Data

An interactive data file will be produced and made available to advocates, elected leaders, and reporters who need to understand the contours of energy affordability in their local context. The dataset will provide summary results for a chosen geography, pre-populated charts or other data visualizations, and allow users to access summary data for all geographies within a state or states. The file will include the following indicators at the state, county, and census tract levels:

- Average energy cost for all residents
- Percent energy burdened at different income levels
- Energy cost for different types of buildings
- Energy cost for different building ages
- Energy cost for different types of heating source
- Socio-Economic indicators for chosen geographies, including:
  - Median income
  - % living in poverty, child poverty
  - Income distribution
  - Racial breakdown by geography
  - Religious breakdown by geography