

From the **Charlotte Business Journal**

:<http://www.bizjournals.com/charlotte/blog/morning-edition/2014/11/ag-duke-energy-impersonator-scamming-n-c.html>

AG: Duke Energy impersonator scamming N.C. small-business owners

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A scammer claiming to be a **Duke Energy** representative has bilked North Carolinians out of thousands of dollars.

That's according to N.C. Attorney General [Roy Cooper](#), who is planning a press conference Monday with the Charlotte-based utility (NYSE:DUK) and the Better Business Bureau to warn consumers about the scam.

The way the scam works is simple. You get a phone call from someone claiming to be a representative of Duke Energy. The caller threatens to disconnect your power if you don't pay immediately.

According to [Noelle Talley](#), a spokeswoman for the attorney general's office, Cooper has received 42 reports on this scam so far this year. That's up from five in 2013.

"Not all reports are victims," she says. "Total losses reported to our office are between \$7,000 and \$8,000, although we feel sure more has been lost."

This year, the attorney general's office has noticed more small businesses being hit with the scam – particularly restaurants and small retail.

Duke Energy does call customers to discuss accounts. But, on such calls, the company provides you with information only you will know in order to validate that the call is legitimate, according to its website.

If you suspect a call is a scam, you're asked to call Duke directly at 1-800-777-9898 to verify whether the call was legitimate.

Lauren Ohnesorge covers information technology and entrepreneurship.