

# Green Power

from Santee Cooper

## Hilton Head's Chocolate Canopy Is Sweet On Green Power

As one of Hilton Head's most popular sweet spots, the Chocolate Canopy has been providing handmade confections to Island locals and visitors for nearly 40 years. Known as the home of "Hilton Head's Finest Confections since 1982," the Chocolate Canopy, owned by Nancy and Chris Paris, is a true mom and pop retailer that is welcoming the third generation of guests to the sweet little shop.



According to co-owner Chris Paris, the secret to his company's success has been its commitment to quality and by using ingredients supplied by vendors committed to environmental sustainability. Recently, Paris family owned business has also taken its commitment to sustainability one step further by making the Chocolate Canopy a Green Power business partner—the latest local business committed to reducing its impact on the environment.

Paris says using sustainable resources like Green Power falls in line with his company's other efforts for environmental protection—including how he sources one of his sweet shop's most used ingredient.

"We work with one of the major suppliers of cocoa, the plant from which chocolate is made, who is committed to improving the lives of cocoa farmers and their communities," said Paris. "By promoting good agricultural practices and enabling access to technology, our supplier helps the cocoa farmers protect the environment and deliver more output from fewer resources. The sustainable sourced cocoa goes into making our homemade delicacies that include such Island related favorites as solid chocolate alligators or flip flops and our all-time best seller—Sea Salt Caramels."

With so many choices right under his nose, Paris says that his favorite sweets are dark chocolate and the peanut butter melts while his wife, Nancy, has been known to occasionally enjoy a milk chocolate creme brulee truffle.

*By supporting renewable energy, local businesses like The Chocolate Canopy are helping to improve the environment and our community. For information on becoming a Green Power business partner, contact Palmetto Electric by calling 1.800.922.5551 ext. 8207.*

*And to learn more about The Chocolate Canopy, visit [www.chocolatecanopy.com](http://www.chocolatecanopy.com).*



"We purchased Green Power because it was a simple and easy way to limit the stresses on our environment. Solar power is a great idea—it's not only an effective energy source, it also reduces pollution. We purchase Green Power at our home as well and encourage other businesses and families to do the same."

—Chris Paris  
Co-Owner,  
Chocolate Canopy

## Loris Middle School Named SC's 29<sup>th</sup> Green Power SOLAR SCHOOL

As the 29th Green Power Solar School to be dedicated in South Carolina, Loris Middle School will utilize a renewable energy curriculum that challenges students to think critically about renewable energy resources and how they can benefit future generations. Meeting state science standards, the program incorporates an Internet-based monitoring system that provides students with real-time access to information on the system's performances as well as other solar schools throughout the state.

Loris Middle School will be the first solar school to use microinverters for its 2.3kW system, which the utility industry is embracing, particularly for smaller installations. An inverter is a piece of equipment that converts DC (direct current) power to AC (alternating current). The reason an inverter is being used is because the solar panels themselves produce DC power but the school's grid and equipment uses AC power. At other solar schools in the state, Santee Cooper used one larger inverter for the entire array. But with microinverters now available, they will convert each panel individually from DC to AC power at Loris Middle School.

Since debuting in 2007, the Green Power Solar Schools program has equipped schools in electric cooperative territories throughout South Carolina with environmental education and resources that promote renewable energy. To learn more about Solar Schools in South Carolina, visit [www.scgreenpower.com/Renewable-Generation/Solar-Schools.aspx](http://www.scgreenpower.com/Renewable-Generation/Solar-Schools.aspx).





## The Runway Solar Farm is Ready for Takeoff

Santee Cooper will soon be producing renewable energy from a new solar farm located on property owned by Myrtle Beach International Airport. The Runway Solar Farm is being constructed by EDF Renewables on U.S. Highway 17 Business at 27th Avenue South.

“There are often lands on airport property that can’t be used for typical development,” said Liz Kress, Santee Cooper senior engineer. “Fortunately, we are able to create clean, renewable energy off of land that would have otherwise been unusable.”

The panels will take up about 14 acres of the 17-acre tract and are highly visible from the road. Santee Cooper has completed studies to ensure the panels won’t create a glare to pilots passing overhead. This project also had to be designed for coastal wind code speeds. The project will create 2 megawatts of renewable energy and is being paid for in large part by contributions from Santee Cooper Green Power purchases. The solar farm project is scheduled to be completed by December.

*For more information on Green Power or recommend businesses to become Green Power Partners, contact a Customer Service representative at your local Electric Cooperative*

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## Have Yourself an LED Christmas: The Brighter and Less Expensive Way to Decorate for the Holidays

As you start planning your holiday decorations this year, consider the many advantages of using LED lights for your home or business. LED lighting products produce light approximately 90% more efficiently than incandescent light bulbs and decorative LED light strings such as Christmas tree lights are no different. Not only do LED holiday lights consume less electricity, they also have the following advantages:

- **Safer:** LEDs produce next to no heat, which means they’re always cool to the touch and safe for children and animals to be around all season.
- **Sturdier:** LEDs are made with epoxy lenses, not glass, and are much more resistant to breakage.
- **Longer Lasting:** Many LED light sets are rated to last tens of thousands of hours, which is well beyond a traditional set of incandescent mini lights that typically may last only a season or two.
- **Easier to install:** You can typically connect 8 to 10 times more LED light strings together end to end while only using one plug outlet. Many LED mini light strings can be connected 40 to 50+ together depending on the light count. This makes decorating large Christmas displays far easier.
- **Visually Unparalleled:** LED bulbs produce a brighter more vivid light than traditional incandescent bulbs. The light output is stunning and one of the most complimented aspects of LED lights.



Source: [christmaslightsetc.com](http://christmaslightsetc.com)