

Green Power

f r o m S a n t e e C o o p e r

Return to Golf:

The 52nd RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing— Socially Distanced but still energized by Green Power

The 52nd RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing, which took place June 18-21 at the famed Harbour Towne Golf Links, was definitely one for the record books—the first time in history the popular event was held with no spectators or sponsors on site. Because of the public health concerns of COVID-19, Hilton Head's signature golf tournament was first postponed from this past April and then a decision was made to protect the public further by keeping it closed to its legion of golf fans.

However, the good news was that the event was televised and featured a leaderboard of stylistically diverse players that included top ranked Rory McIlroy, Jon Rahm, Brooks Koepka, Justin Thomas and Team RBC ambassador Dustin Johnson, who all competed for a chance to take home a plaid jacket. Even though the four-day tournament was missing its biggest fans, excitement was still in the air up until the very last minute. Weaving in and out of the lead late in the final day of play were Daniel Berger, Tyrrell Hatton, Sergio Garcia and Joaquin Niemann before Webb Simpson birdied five of his last seven holes to land a 7-under 64 and one-stroke win over Abraham Ancer.

Even though there were no spectators this year, it was still an energizing event—thanks to being powered by 100% homegrown, environmentally sound Green Power. This is the 12th consecutive year that the RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing has teamed up with Palmetto Electric Cooperative and Santee Cooper to power the state's largest sporting event.

Santee Cooper generates Green Power from clean, renewable energy sources including landfill methane gas, solar power and wind power right here in South Carolina. In 2001, Santee Cooper became the first utility to generate Green Power and offer it for sale in South Carolina, and Palmetto Electric Cooperative signed on as one of the first cooperatives in the state to offer Green Power to its members.

Customers of Santee Cooper and the state's electric cooperatives can purchase Green Power each month through their electric bills. Green Power is Green-e Energy certified and meets the environmental and consumer-protection standards set forth by the nonprofit Center for Resource Solutions. Learn more at www.green-e.org.



“I commend the RBC Heritage for committing to safely play the tournament this year. Being new to South Carolina, I am very impressed by the reach Green Power has across the state and thank Palmetto Electric for stepping up early in support.”

—Mark Bonsall
President and CEO
Santee Cooper

“Although it was a little different this year, this remains a big event for our state and using Green Power for the tournament continues to be a big win for our state and our environment. The support of the RBC Heritage and others here has made Palmetto Electric a leader in Green Power sales in South Carolina.”

—Bert Davis
President and CEO
Palmetto Electric Cooperative

“Tradition and environmental stewardship are important to us at the RBC Heritage, and we have worked hard to be a leader for sustainability in golf. We were pleased to once again honor the environment during this year's social distancing tournament.”

—Steve Wilmot
President and Tournament Director,
RBC Heritage



The State of Solar Energy

After a positive 2019, the U.S. solar market was on pace to be even more successful in 2020 with 3.6 GWdc solar PV being installed during the first quarter (Q1), the largest Q1 on record. Also, the record Q1 solar numbers accounted for nearly 40% of all new electricity generation capacity added in the United States.

With continuing decreases in solar prices along with supportive legislation, South Carolina became one of the fastest growing solar energy states in the southeast during 2019. At the end of 1st quarter 2020, the state of South Carolina had some impressive statistics that included:

- 3,307 solar jobs
- 265.77 MW total solar installed
- 1.25% of state's electricity comes from solar
- Price of solar has declined 40% over the last five years
- Solar industry has invested \$1,705.29 million in South Carolina

However, the solar industry, like so many other businesses, has not been immune to the far-reaching effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Solar experts are now forecasting that residential and non-residential markets will realize a 25% and 38% decrease in year-over-year installation volumes respectively. The industry will continue to face challenges posed by work stoppages, permitting delays and drops in consumer demand. But hopefully, solar energy will once again shine brightly in the near future.

Sources: SC Energy Office and Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA).

Solar Power's First Lift-Off

Did you know the space industry was an early adopter of solar technology?

In the 1950s, the space industry began to use solar technology to provide power aboard spacecraft. The Vanguard 1—the first artificial earth satellite powered by solar cells—remains the oldest manmade satellite in orbit, logging more than 6 billion miles.

Source: Department of Energy

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



Go Green on Your Next Camping Trip

One of the best ways to experience and explore the great outdoors is by camping! Check out these green tips for making the most of your outdoor experience and leaving the environment healthier when you head home:

- ☀ **Pick a local park or campground** to save on fuel and start your trip right away.
- ☀ **Follow trail markers to keep you from getting lost** but to also prevent soil erosion and harm to native plants.
- ☀ **Keep your fire to a manageable size** and always have water on hand to douse the flames when finished.
- ☀ **LED flashlights and lanterns require less power** and last longer than non-LED lights.
- ☀ **Pack reusable dishes** for your cookouts and campfires.
- ☀ **Use the golden rule of camping: always leave your campsite better than you found it.** Also, keep a reusable bag with you throughout your trip to pick up any trash or debris you find along the way. Recycle what you can and properly dispose of the rest.



Source: EarthShare.org