

# Green Power

from Santee Cooper

## Green Power over the long haul!

**Carolina Plantation Rice and the Town of Hilton Head realize the long-term benefits of being Green Power Partners**

“We have many repeat customers because they feel comfortable buying this product because of the Green-e designation.... they understand the environmental aspect of what we are doing.”

—Campbell Coxe  
Owner of Carolina Plantation Rice

“Hilton Head is and has been sensitive to the environment and was green before green was cool or a household word. It all reflects the type of community we are.”

—Stephen Riley  
Town Manager, Hilton Head Island

### The Town of Hilton Head's Sustainability Programs

- First LEED fire station in the state
- New fleet of diesel trucks that has new diesel technology that releases less particles than earlier trucks
- Over 60 miles of bicycle pathway as well as the beach, helping the town receive the Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community designation
- Mulch stations for public and businesses made from landscape debris
- Recycled water that is utilized on golf courses
- A publicly mandated recycle program in its private garbage disposal service

### A greener way of growing rice

At Carolina Plantation Rice, the color of the famous southern grain hasn't gone green, but the way it's made certainly has for nearly a decade. Since 2006, the Darlington County based rice grower has been a Green Power Legacy Partner, meaning that the company has opted to purchase blocks of clean, renewable energy from Pee Dee Electric Cooperative. Because of its purchase of Green Power, the company also qualifies for product labeling with the Green-e Marketplace logo, and is recognized nationally as an EPA Green Power Partner.

Campbell Coxe, owner of Carolina Plantation Rice, says that the Green-e Marketplace labeling tells the world that his company is a steward of the environment and is mindful of its role in conserving our natural resources.

As the first product to receive Green-e Marketplace certification in South Carolina, Carolina Plantation Rice is being recognized at national Green Power partner meetings and on the national EPA GP Partner website. The company is also listed as a Green Power Legacy Partner on the [www.scgreenpower.com](http://www.scgreenpower.com) website.

As his company's reputation continues to benefit from being a champion of the environment, Coxe says Carolina Plantation Rice is evolving to meet consumer demand. Along with their signature aromatic white and brown rice, stone-ground grits, cornmeal and other offerings, Coxe is adding gluten-free rice flour for the health conscious. The company's growth has also dictated the need for a new warehouse—growth that he partly attributes to his association with Green-e.

“Green Power has been a good business decision as it drives sales and makes the company more viable,” Coxe said. “There's definitely been a return to justify the usage.”



### The Greening of Hilton Head honors its environmental heritage

As the site of the annual RBC Heritage Golf Tournament, one of the state's first special events that runs on 100 percent renewable energy, Hilton Head has a proud reputation of being a good steward of the environment. But Stephen Riley, town manager, says it's just business as usual in a town that was built on conservation.

In addition to purchasing Green Power from Palmetto Electric Cooperative, since 2005, Riley says that the town also has a sustainability coordinator that works with schools and businesses to keep Hilton Head moving forward with sustainability and energy efficiency.

Because of the work to keep Hilton Head one of the greenest resorts in the United States, the town has received many accolades for its initiatives, including being the recipient of the 2011 Audubon Green Community Award—the first stage of Audubon International's Sustainable Communities Program. Hilton Head was the first community in South Carolina and only the fifth community in the U.S. to receive such an honor.

In spring of 2015, Hilton Head also earned the Audubon Green Community Award for stage 2, again first in our state to receive such an honor.



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## Upcoming Green Power Event

**June 27**  
THE CONWAY  
RIVERFEST



An Independence Celebration that will take place on the Waccamaw River, June 27, 11 a.m.– 11 p.m. For more information visit [conwayriverfest.com](http://conwayriverfest.com)



**Sept. 6**  
BOJANGLES'  
SOUTHERN  
500

The “Lady in Black” turns green at the Darlington Raceway, Saturday, Sept. 5 and Sunday, Sept. 6. For more information visit [DarlingtonRaceway.com](http://DarlingtonRaceway.com)

**A Recent Past Event!**  
Horry Electric Cooperative made their Annual Meeting May 12, a Green Power Event.

For more information about turning your event green visit [scgreenpower.com](http://scgreenpower.com)

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

6-15

# five myths

## About Summer AC Efficiency



Kissing a frog and hoping for a prince may be one of the oldest myths around—but when it comes to home cooling myths, there are some that need to be busted.

### **myth: Air Conditioning is the only way to beat the heat.**

Air conditioning is great but it's not the only way to keep cool during the summer. You can close windows and curtains during the day. Or you can plant trees to create natural shade. Another idea is to properly insulate your attic and install an attic fan. And replace heat producing incandescent bulbs with fluorescent and LED lighting.

### **myth: Turning off the A/C while you're out will save money.**

If you leave your home and turn your A/C off, it takes a lot of work for your system to cool down to a desired temperature. But it's also wasteful to keep your A/C running all day. The solution? A programmable thermostat can keep an unoccupied home warm while you are not there, but let it gradually lower during the day so it's temperate by the time you come home.

### **myth: Running ceiling fans will keep empty rooms cool.**

Ceiling fans work by generating a wind chill effect, not by lowering a room's temperature. Basically, fans cool people, not rooms. But fans do help lower cooling bills by using them in conjunction with your A/C. But remember to turn the fans off when you are not in a room.

### **myth: Closing vents on a central air system will make it more efficient.**

Most modern A/C systems distribute air evenly throughout an entire home. So if you randomly close one register, the system keeps cooling and pumping air without delivering it to a usable space. Your A/C's compressor/condenser can also cycle too frequently, putting strain on the system. If you only want to keep one room cool at a time, consider a basic window unit instead.

### **myth: Cool your home faster by setting a lower indoor temperature.**

Wrong. Thermostats work by directing the HVAC to reach a certain temperature and then shut off. The thermostat will turn on again to maintain the set temperature if it senses a change. It is best to set the temperature at the highest setting which you are comfortable and leave it. The recommended setting is 78° F for energy efficiency.