



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Media Contacts:

Laura Varn  
843-761-4133  
[lgvarn@santeecooper.com](mailto:lgvarn@santeecooper.com)

Mike Hartenburg  
843-538-5700  
[mike.hartenburg@coastal.coop](mailto:mike.hartenburg@coastal.coop)

Harry Jenkins  
843-562-2291  
[hjenkins@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us](mailto:hjenkins@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us)

## Ruffin Middle next Green Power Solar School

### *Innovative environmental program continues*

WALTERBORO, S.C.— Coastal Electric Cooperative, Santee Cooper and Colleton County School District announced today the formation of the Green Power Solar Schools program in the cooperative territory. Ruffin Middle School has been selected as a Green Power Solar School.

The Green Power Solar Schools initiative is designed to encourage interest in the environment and demonstrate the feasibility and limitations of renewable power generation. Each Green Power Solar School receives a 2-kilowatt solar power system, which will provide a teaching, research and hands-on demonstration opportunity for students. The project uses a new renewable energy curriculum designed especially for the program that meets state science standards. Each school program is supplemented by an Internet-based monitoring system that provides real-time access to information on the system's performance as well as other solar schools in South Carolina.

“Coastal Electric Cooperative is excited and proud to be a partner in this innovative program. Serving our members to improve their total quality of life is a cornerstone of our operations. We can't think of a better way to honor our tradition of service than to enrich the educational experience of young people through Green Power Solar Schools,” said Lawrence J. Hinz, Coastal Electric Cooperative CEO. “We look forward to the benefits this partnership will bring to our community and to our young people.”

Green Power Solar Schools represents one way that Santee Cooper and the state's 20 electric cooperatives promote renewable energy, and it fulfills Santee Cooper's commitment to reinvest Green Power funds back into renewable resources across South Carolina. In September 2001, Santee Cooper became the first electric utility in the state to generate and offer Green Power to its customers from methane gas collected at the Horry County Solid Waste Authority Landfill near Conway. Since then, two additional landfills in Lee and Richland counties have opened, as has the 16-kilowatt solar installation at Coastal Carolina University. Another landfill methane gas generating site has been announced in Georgetown County. Santee Cooper, all 20 electric cooperatives and The City of Georgetown market Green Power to their customers.



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"Renewable energy exploration and conservation are important ways to help meet the growing electricity needs in our state. Green Power Solar Schools is an important part of our commitment as an environmental leader. It is exciting to be a part of challenging the next generation to think differently about energy sources that will reap benefits for future generations," said Lonnie Carter, president and chief executive officer of Santee Cooper.

"Exposing our young people to the latest technology is a critical component of teaching and learning in our complex world. This project combines the use of technology with a relevant and exciting science curriculum to engage students as they explore the energy challenges we face today," said Charles W. Gale, Jr., superintendent of Colleton County School District.

Five additional schools, served by Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Berkeley Electric Cooperative, Pee Dee Electric Cooperative, Aiken Electric Cooperative and Laurens Electric Cooperative, became Green Power Solar Schools in 2007. Santee Electric Cooperative, Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, and Tri-County Electric Cooperative have dedicated Green Power Solar Schools this year as the program continues.

Santee Cooper recently unveiled Santee Cooper Green, a utility-wide commitment bringing together all the eco-friendly, conservation-minded approaches that Santee Cooper practices and all the programs and opportunities for its customers to "go green." More information can be found at [www.SanteeCooperGreen.com](http://www.SanteeCooperGreen.com)

Coastal Electric Cooperative is a member-owned, nonprofit electric cooperative serving over 11,200 accounts in Bamberg, Colleton, and Dorchester counties. As a Touchstone Energy Partner, Coastal joins over 600 electric co-ops nationwide to share the Touchstone Energy core values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Visit [www.coastal.coop](http://www.coastal.coop) for more information.

Santee Cooper is South Carolina's state-owned electric and water utility and the state's largest power producer, supplying electricity to more than 162,000 retail customers in Berkeley, Georgetown and Horry counties, as well as to 29 large industrial facilities, the cities of Bamberg and Georgetown, and the Charleston Air Force Base. Santee Cooper also generates the power distributed by the state's 20 electric cooperatives to more than 685,000 customers in all 46 counties. Approximately 2 million South Carolinians receive their power directly or indirectly from Santee Cooper. The utility also provides water to 137,000 consumers in Berkeley and Dorchester counties, and the town of Santee. For more information, visit [www.SanteeCooper.com](http://www.SanteeCooper.com). For information on how Santee Cooper lives green and how you can go green, visit [www.SanteeCooperGreen.com](http://www.SanteeCooperGreen.com).

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