



NEWS RELEASE

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Hopkins Middle dedicates Green Power Solar School

HOPKINS, S.C. — Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Santee Cooper and Richland One School District dedicated today South Carolina's eighth Green Power Solar School, at Hopkins Middle School in Richland County School District One.

The Green Power Solar Schools initiative is designed to foster an interest in environmental issues as well as demonstrate the feasibility and limitations of renewable-power generation. Each participating school receives a 2-kilowatt solar-power system that affords teaching, research and hands-on demonstration opportunities for students and faculty.

With the black shiny solar cell in the background, B. Robert Paulling, CEO, Tri-County Electric Cooperative said, "Tri-County Electric Cooperative is proud to help usher in the continued expansion of this important initiative. Green Power Solar Schools bring forward-thinking innovation and technology to the educational support we already provide to our schools. And, we know Hopkins Middle School will benefit greatly from this project. We look forward to working with them and together we will learn about the viability and challenges associated with solar energy."

"This initiative is a cornerstone of Santee Cooper Green's expansive conservation and renewable energy programs and also represents a powerful partnership with the state's 20 electric cooperatives," said R.M. Singletary, senior vice president of corporate services at Santee Cooper. "We recognize our country faces some tough energy challenges, and we all need to put our heads together to find responsible and effective solutions. Our hope is this program might someday lead us closer to finding energy solutions."

In September 2001, Santee Cooper became the first electric utility in South Carolina to generate and offer Green Power. Since then, the state's 20 electric cooperatives and The City of Georgetown have joined the state-owned utility in marketing Green Power to their members and customers. Green Power Solar Schools represents another way Santee Cooper and the cooperatives promote renewable energy, and the program fulfills Santee Cooper's commitment to reinvest Green Power funds back into renewable resources throughout the state.



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Schools served by Aiken Electric Cooperative, Berkeley Electric Cooperative, Laurens Electric Cooperative, Palmetto Electric Cooperative and Pee Dee Electric Cooperative were dedicated in the program's inaugural year. Santee Electric Cooperative and Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative have also dedicated Green Power Solar Schools in their service areas this school year. Ultimately, Santee Cooper plans to locate at least one Green Power Solar School in each of the state's 20 electric cooperative service territories.

"I commend Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Santee Cooper and Richland One on bringing this innovative program to our young people and community," said Senator Darrell Jackson, District 21, Richland County. Representative Joseph H. Neal, District 70, Richland and Sumter Counties added, "There is nothing more important than to prepare our future leaders to meet the demands of the 21st century, and there is perhaps no greater demand facing us today than to meet our energy challenges."

A feature of the Green Power Solar Schools program is a customized renewable-energy curriculum that has been approved by the S.C. Department of Education. It is supplemented by an Internet-based monitoring system that provides students and teachers real-time access to information on their system's performance and the performance of other solar schools in the state and the U.S.

"The core of our jobs as educators is to prepare our students to meet the demands and challenges of the 21st century," said Goler Collins, Hopkins Middle School principal. "It's true the Green Power Solar Schools program taps the sun's energy, but our hope is it will also tap the minds of these students as well."

Tri-County Electric Cooperative is a member-owned, not for profit electric cooperative serving almost 17,900 accounts in Calhoun, Kershaw, Lexington, Orangeburg, Richland, and Sumter counties. As a Touchstone Energy Partner, Tri-County Electric joins over 600 electric co-ops nationwide to share the Touchstone Energy core values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Visit www.tri-countyelectric.net for more information.

Santee Cooper is South Carolina's state-owned electric and water utility and provides power to more than 162,000 customers in Berkeley, Georgetown and Horry counties and water to 136,000 consumers in Berkeley and Dorchester counties. The utility also generates the power distributed by the state's 20 electric cooperatives to more than 685,000 customers in all 46 counties. Santee Cooper is the largest provider of electricity in South Carolina. More than 2 million South Carolinians receive their power directly or indirectly from Santee Cooper. For more information, visit www.SanteeCooper.com. For information on how Santee Cooper lives green and how you can go green with Santee Cooper, visit www.SanteeCooperGreen.com.

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