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Fairfield Electric Cooperative and Santee Cooper Dedicate Green Power Solar School at Leslie M. Stover Middle School

Phase 2 of innovative environmental program continues

ELGIN, S.C.— Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Santee Cooper and Kershaw County School District dedicated a Green Power Solar School today at Leslie M. Stover Middle School.

Children and teachers gathered on school grounds with the tall black solar array in the background, officially dedicating the site and marking the beginning of the Green Power Solar School program in Kershaw County.

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.

“Serving our community is a cornerstone of our mission to improve the total quality of life for our member owners. We can't think of a better way to extend that mission than by encouraging young people to learn about renewable energy sources while discovering ways to protect our environment,” said William L. “Bill” Hart, Fairfield Electric Cooperative Chief Executive Officer. “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, three additional landfills in Lee, Richland and Anderson counties are operating, as has a 16-kilowatt solar installation at Coastal Carolina University. Santee Cooper, all 20 electric cooperatives and The City of Georgetown market Green Power to their customers.



"Santee Cooper believes that renewable energy exploration and conservation are important ways to help meet the growing electricity needs in our state. We've been a leader in renewable energy since 2001, when we became the first utility in South Carolina to offer Green Power. This solar school program continues our environmental leadership and challenges the next generation of leaders to think differently about using our resources as effectively as possible," said Marc Tye, Santee Cooper's VP of Conservation and Renewable Energy .

"Exposing young minds with advancing technology and challenging them to explore challenges in our complex world is critical to a successful education. This project combines a new energy science curriculum, exciting activities and hands on learning tools to engage students as they explore the energy challenges we face today," said Dr. Frank Morgan, superintendent of the Kershaw 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, Tri-County Electric Cooperative, York Electric Cooperative, Lynches River Electric Cooperative and Horry Electric Cooperative dedicated their Green Power Solar Schools this school year.

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

Fairfield Electric Cooperative is a member-owned, nonprofit electric cooperative that serves more than 24,000 accounts in Fairfield, Chester, Kershaw, Richland, and York counties. As a Touchstone Energy Partner, Fairfield joins over 600 electric co-ops nationwide to share the Touchstone Energy core values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Visit www.fairfield.coop 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 137,000 water consumers in Berkeley and Dorchester counties and the town of Santee. 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.

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