

# Green Power

from Santee Cooper

“As an organization in the business of providing safe and sustainable drinking water to a growing state, the Regional Water System Plant understands the importance of preserving and protecting our natural resources.”

—Darla Barnette  
Santee Cooper Regional  
Water Systems manager

## Clean & Green

**The Santee Cooper Regional Water System is showing its commitment to “green” renewable energy sources by becoming a Green Power Partner with Tri-County Electric Cooperative.**

The Regional Water System, located in the Town of Santee, gets its power from Tri-County. Completed in 2008, the Regional Water System has an 8 million-gallon water treatment capacity. It was designed and built to expand to treat 12 million gallons of raw water from the Santee Cooper lakes, which is treated and made into safe and healthy drinking water.



Darla Barnette, Santee Cooper water systems manager (left), with Wilford Thompson, Tri-County Electric marketing representative, at the water treatment facility.

“We are owned and operated by Santee Cooper, which has a long history of environmental stewardship and which, of course, is generating the Green Power we are not tapping into. It’s a great opportunity for us to close the loop,” said Darla Barnette, Santee Cooper water systems manager. “We wanted to set a good example for other businesses who are co-op customers.”

TCE marketing representative Wilford Thompson notes that the Santee Cooper facility itself is a significant load for the co-op. He adds that Santee Cooper’s water system will serve the huge Jafza commercial-industrial development in Santee, where TCE is providing electric service.

“Becoming Green Power Partners here is a natural extension of the long-standing and productive collaboration between Tri-County Electric Cooperative and Santee Cooper,” Thompson said.



Photo by Walter Allread

## Road TRIP

Follow these tips to increase your fuel mileage for summer travel:

- **Idling gets you 0 miles per gallon.** The best way to warm up a vehicle is to drive it.
- **Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and hard braking) wastes gas.** It can lower your highway gas mileage 33% and city mileage 5%.
- **Avoid high speeds.** Above 60 mph, gas mileage drops rapidly.
- **Clean out your car;** extra weight decreases gas mileage by 1% to 2% for every 100 pounds.
- **Reduce drag by placing items inside the car trunk** rather than on roof racks. A loaded roof rack can decrease your fuel economy by 5% or more.

The Chevrolet Volt (below) is an electric vehicle. It is powered primarily by electric charge and switches seamlessly to a gas-powered on-board generator for extended range.

For the first 35 miles the Volt gets infinite mpg, because no gas is burned. When the generator starts, the Volt gets an average of 37 mpg on it’s 9.3 gallons of gas.



# Green Power



## A Decade of Green Power

This fall, Santee Cooper's Green Power will celebrate 10 years of providing renewable energy for South Carolina.

**Santee Cooper was the first utility in the state to offer Green Power.** It all began Sept. 4, 2001 with the Horry County Solid Waste Authority. The 2.2-megawatt facility generates electricity from methane gas. Since then, five more generating stations have opened in Lee, Richland, Anderson, Georgetown and Berkeley counties, generating 30.1 megawatts.

**Green Power also includes solar energy,** with solar projects at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, the Center for Hydrogen Research in Aiken, the Technical College of the Lowcountry in Bluffton, and the Grand Strand Solar Station in Myrtle Beach.

**Santee Cooper has added wind energy research** to the mix with a wind turbine in North Myrtle Beach and the Palmetto Wind Research Project to study offshore wind.



### Watch for the Fall 2011 Green Power Newsletter

for more about Green Power's  
10th anniversary.

For more information on  
Green Power or to recommend  
businesses to become  
Green Power Partners,  
contact Customer Service at

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8-11-100

## Save Energy and Stay Cool

**Keep your air conditioning unit in its best working condition with regular maintenance,** including changing the air filters on a monthly basis. Air filters are a small expense that can make a big impact on your energy usage and your wallet. Securely placed weather stripping around windows and doors is also an affordable solution for keeping cool air in your home and hot air out.

**Use hot water only when necessary and in the cooler evening hours of the day.** Your HVAC unit has to work harder to keep your home cool if the shower or dishwasher is releasing steam.

**Also, consider using a microwave for cooking** instead of the oven or stovetop.

**Installing solar lighting around your home and garden** is quick and easy with an added bonus – no wires or electricity costs!

