

1. Why Berkeley County?

Berkeley County continues to experience significant residential and economic growth, increasing the demand for reliable electricity. Sandy Run Solar is being developed to help meet current and future energy needs while supporting continued responsible growth for local homes and businesses. The project is part of Santee Cooper's effort to add new energy generation resources to serve customers reliably in the years ahead.

2. Where will the project be located?

The proposed project is in northwestern Berkeley County on privately owned timberland. Although some public discussions have referenced a much larger land area, the proposed solar facility itself would occupy approximately 1,500 acres, while the surrounding property will remain under its current zoning unless separate approvals are sought in the future.

3. How is the project being designed to protect the environment?

A number of site assessments and environmental studies have been completed to inform the preliminary design proposed in the Request to Lift process. More environmental studies are being completed as development and permitting continues. The project has been designed to avoid direct impacts to jurisdictional wetlands whenever possible. Native vegetative ground cover will be maintained throughout much of the site. Sandy Run Solar also includes planned agricultural uses such as blueberry plantings and plans to plant pollinators on site, helping stabilize soils while supporting compatible vegetation and wildlife habitat during operation.

4. What makes solar panels safe?

Modern solar panels are made primarily of glass, aluminum, copper, and other solid materials. Modern crystalline silicon panels pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test and are classified as non-hazardous waste. They are not liquid-filled and are designed to safely contain their components throughout normal operation. Studies and regulatory testing have found commercial solar panels to be safe under typical operating conditions. Cadmium Telluride (thin cell) modules will not be installed at Sandy Run Solar.

5. What happens when the project reaches the end of its operating life?

When the project reaches the end of its useful life, the equipment will be removed, and the site will be restored in accordance with applicable permitting requirements. RWE will put financial assurance mechanisms, such as bonds, to ensure decommissioning obligations are met.

Still Have Questions?

We welcome your questions and feedback. If you would like additional information about the Sandy Run Solar Project or would like to speak with a member of the project team, please submit an inquiry through the Contact Us section of the project website.