

## Clean Energy in the Southeast

### PLENTY TO BE TAPPED

We all use electricity – whether for air conditioning, powering equipment, or using products made with electricity. Although often overlooked, the bulk of electricity in the Southeast comes from coal and nuclear power plants. Some of those plants are among the most polluting in the world. At the same time, our region has some of the richest reserves of untapped clean energy – plentiful solar resources, offshore wind and biomass.

As the cost of conventional electricity increases, state and local leaders across the region are taking a much closer look at the clean choices that utilities could be making. Solar technologies include designing homes to draw natural sunlight for lighting. Other solar technologies produce electricity or hot water. Florida is overly ripe for solar expansion with other states in our region not far behind.

The wind off the coast of the Carolinas and Georgia is an even larger opportunity to tap a local renewable resource over the coming years. As for immediate options, Georgia and its neighboring states offer some of the best areas in the country for energy from sustainable biomass resources.



Wind turbines on Buffalo Mountain near Oak Ridge, Tennessee.



Solar panels provide electricity for SACE Executive Director Stephen Smith's home.

### WHAT SACE IS DOING:

- The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) has successfully pushed for stronger utility programs like TVA's Generation Partners and the adoption of state policies like North Carolina's renewable energy standard to help drive investment and market growth of green energy.
- SACE encourages Southern utilities to integrate renewable energy resources into their long-range plans.
- SACE works with many partners to urge Congress to pass renewable energy legislation. We continue to build a base of support for this important policy nationally and across the region.
- SACE co-leads wind stakeholder groups in Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina and Georgia and runs the Regional Wind Energy Institute that generates educational forums and technical support for wind developers, regulators, and interested property owners.
- SACE works with stakeholders in agriculture, industry and the environmental community to track and identify environmentally sustainable bioenergy opportunities, develop tools and promote policies that ensure clean, safe, and healthy communities throughout the Southeast.