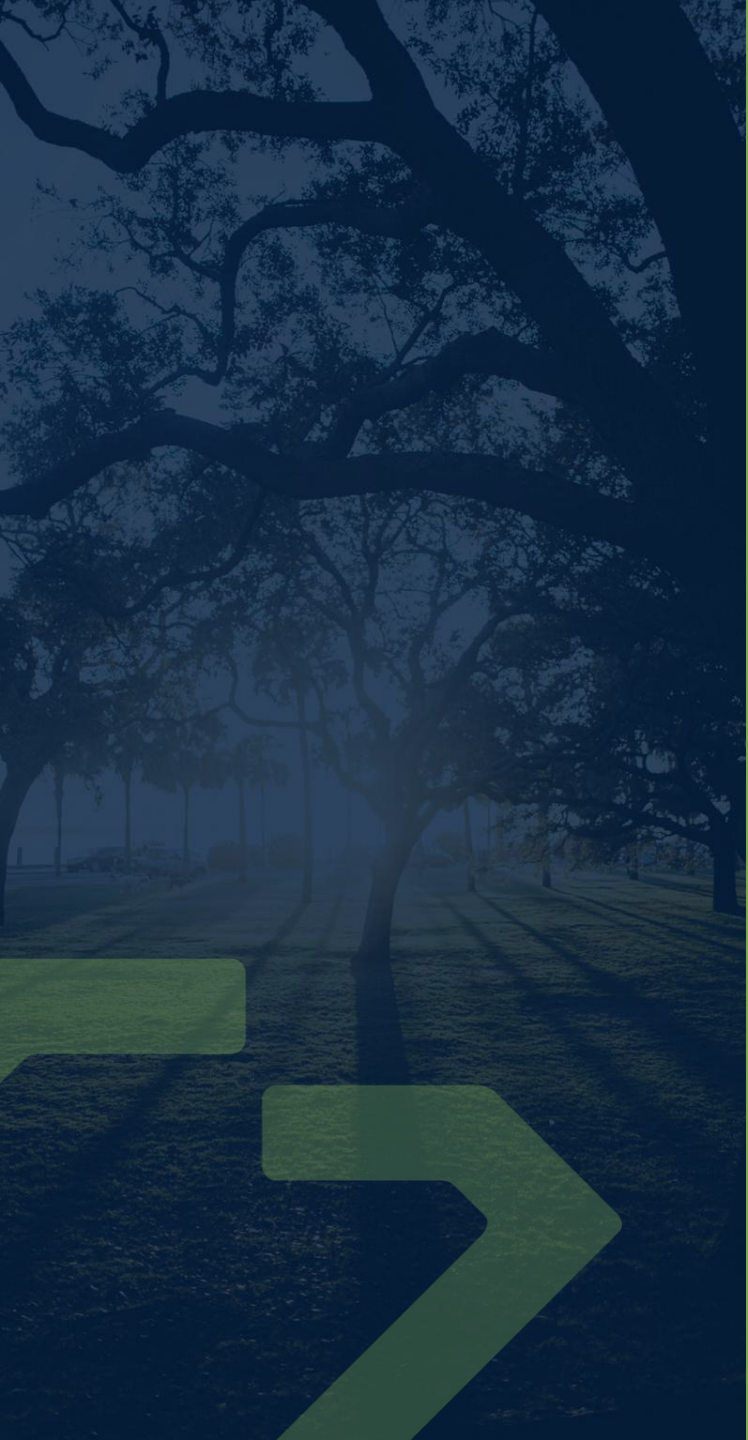




Upstate Inter-Basin River Council Meeting

March 11, 2026
Greenville Water, Greenville, SC

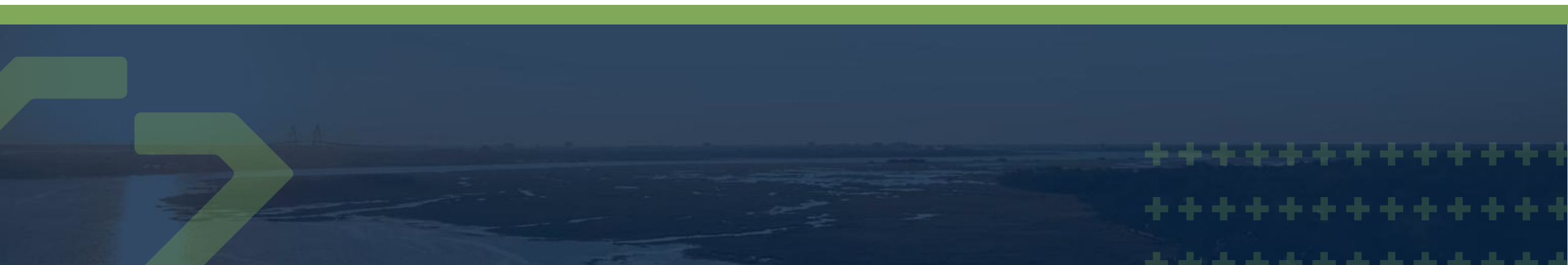


AGENDA

- **What is Sustainability?**
- **Sustain SC Purpose / Mission / Values**
- **Intersection of Commerce and Conservation**
 - Expanding our Economy
 - Growth + Retention
 - Municipal Support + Land Use Planning
 - Outreach + Education
 - Water Woven Throughout the Work
 - Ways to Work Together Going Forward
- **Like, Follow, Share**

What is sustainability?

Ensuring a future for both our **economy** and our **environment** by working together across sectors to optimize **land** and **water** use



Our Purpose

Why we exist

To build and grow a more **sustainable future** for South Carolina at the intersection of **commerce** and **conservation**

Our Mission

What we do

Connect the sustainability goals of business in South Carolina with local solutions for the benefit of our **economy, environment, and people**



Our Values

Purpose-Driven Leadership

We value **doing good** and **doing it well**.

Stewardship

We value and care for our state's resources – our **economy**, **environment** and **people**.

Collaboration

We value **working together** with different sectors and industries in a **non-partisan** way.

Integrity

We value acting with **trust**, **credibility**, and **accountability**.

Respect

We value each other's **opinions** and **views**, even when we may not agree.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



Expanding our Economy

Economic Development and Recruitment



Growth + Retention

Supporting SC Organizations



Municipal Support + Land Use Planning



Outreach and Education

Trends and Data for Decision Makers





Expanding Our Economy

Economic Development and Recruitment

Sustainability Matters for SC's Economic Growth

REGULATORY PRESSURES:

- **Germany and Sweden:** Legally binding net zero targets for 2045
- **UK, Canada, and Japan** have a 2050 net zero requirement

Source: Study on South Carolina Sustainability Habits and commercial attitudes; SC Chamber of Commerce, 2025

90%

Of executives believe sustainability is important

85%

Of investors considered sustainability factors in their investments

86%

Of companies announced by SCDOC in 2025 have publicly available sustainability goals



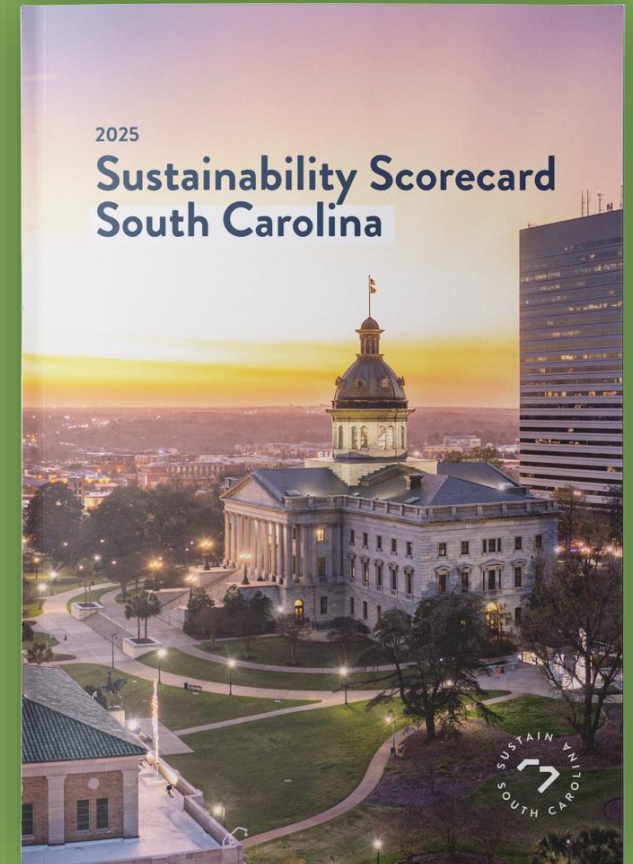
In today's competitive landscape, sustainability is more than a value-add, it's a business imperative.

The following highlights from Sustain SC's *2025 South Carolina Sustainability Scorecard* show how South Carolina's strengths in **energy, circularity, water** and **conservation** can help companies meet make progress on their sustainability goals and comply with regulatory requirements—while remaining competitive, resilient and positioned for long-term growth.



View the full report at
SUSTAINSOUTHCAROLINA.ORG/SCORECARD

or scan the QR code to the left.



SPONSORED BY



South Carolina Scorecard At-a-Glance

86%

of companies announced by the SC Dept. of Commerce in 2025* have publicly available sustainability goals, as compared to 78% in 2024 and 65% in 2023.



*Companies announced by the SC Dept. of Commerce as of October, 2025

80%

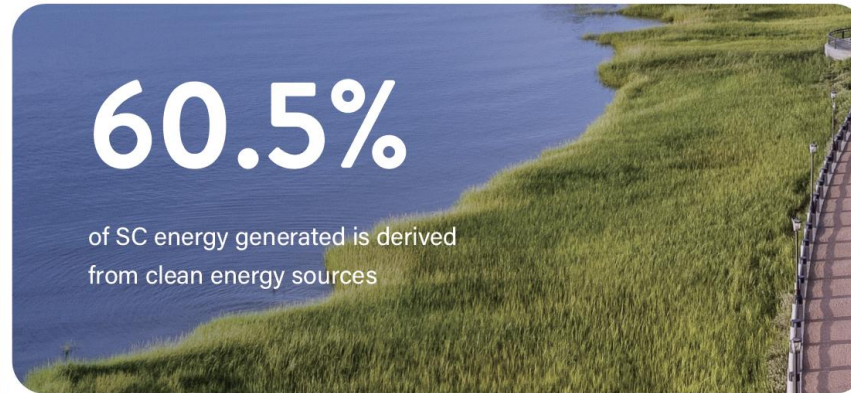
of the largest corporate employers* in SC have published a sustainability report in the last two years



*Largest corporate employers in SC defined as: companies that employ 1000+ employees

60.5%

of SC energy generated is derived from clean energy sources



18.5%

of South Carolina's Land is protected totaling **3.4 million acres.**



\$6.63

Billion of Capital Investment in the SC Recycling Industry since 2021



21.2%

2024 SC Recycling Rate



591B

Gallons of water used in South Carolina annually

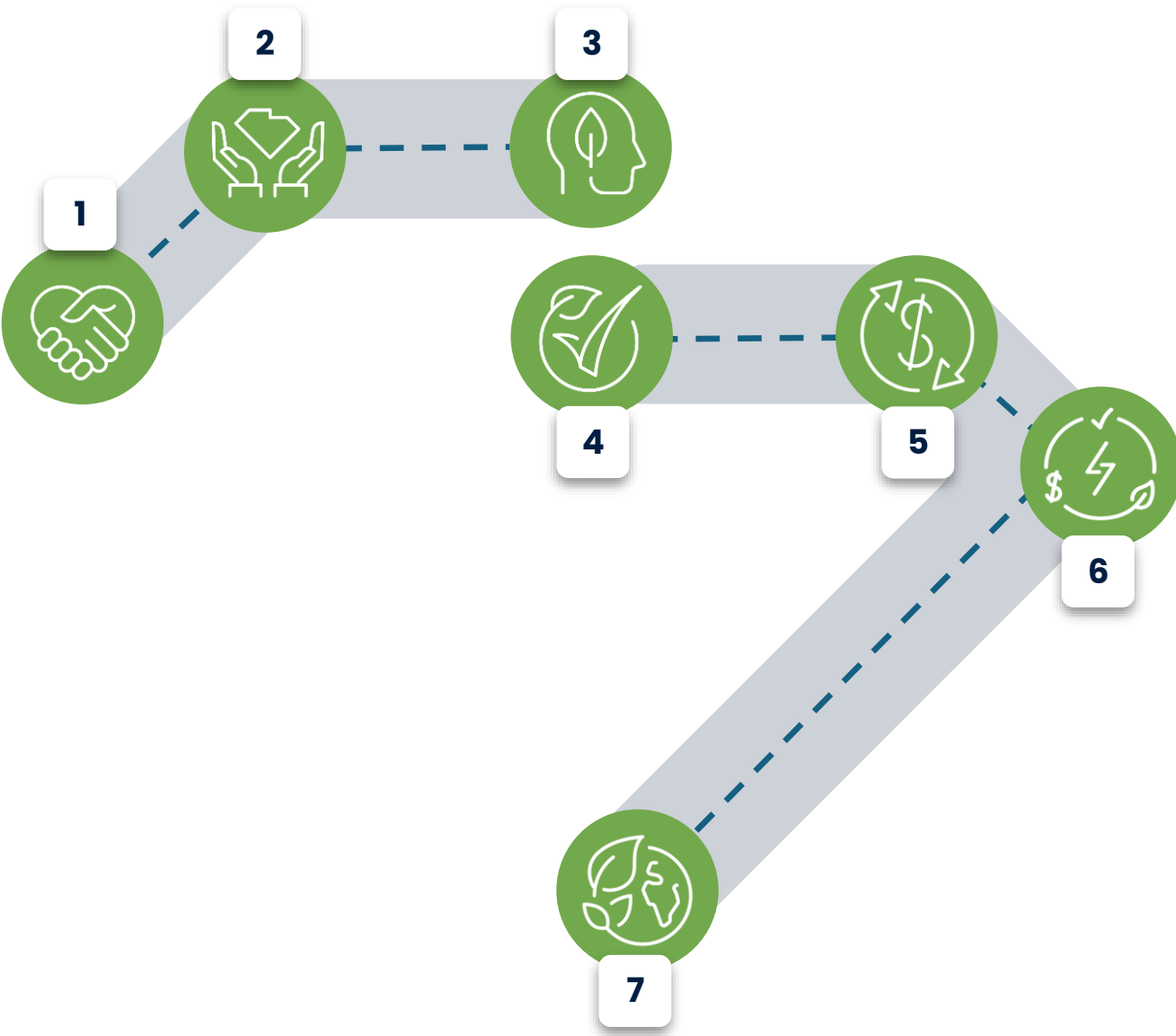




Growth + Retention

Supporting SC Organizations

THE ROADMAP TO SUSTAIN SOUTH CAROLINA



1. **Strategic Partnerships**
2. **Resilience + Conservation**
3. **Sustainable Workforce**
4. **Innovation + Sustainable Growth**
5. **Circular Economy**
6. **Affordable, Reliable + Sustainable Energy**
7. **Metrics + Reporting**



Strategic Partnerships

We convene individuals from the private and public sector to include companies, conservation groups, energy, forestry and agriculture at the intersection of commerce and conservation

STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- Sustainable Leadership Initiative with Furman University
- University Partnerships
- Business to Student Networking (B2SN) Events
- Member Network

MEMBERSHIP

Sustainability Member Network

Access Statewide Relationships + Connections



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Sustainability Leadership Initiative

The Sustainability Leadership Initiative (SLI) is an innovative leadership development program that uses cross-boundary dialogue, field sessions, and experiential learning to enhance skills and equip fellows to enact positive change in their organizations and communities.



Program Objectives

Networking

Create a strong, cross-sector network of sustainability leaders to serve South Carolina.

Sustainability

Explore and understand complex sustainability systems from multiple perspectives (commerce and conservation) and identify levers for systems change.

Leadership

Build and enhance the leadership skills needed to enact positive change.





Resilience + Conservation

We work with companies and partner with conservation organizations and state agencies to protect and preserve South Carolina's natural resources—fostering a resilient future for our state.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- Land and Water Action Platform
- Sustainable Water Management
- Biodiversity
- Workforce

Sustainable Water Management

- In 2025, Sustain SC members came together to start a conversation about what a collective vision will look like as South Carolina rapidly grows.
- In 2026, we will expand this conversation through a regional roundtable series to address how our water quality and quantity can be abundant going into the future.



RESILIENCE + CONSERVATION



Land and Water Action Platform

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

DONATIONS TO DATE.
Thank You Donors
LAWAP.

\$325,000

07

Organizations

11

Counties

12

Projects

13,305

Acres

\$93,200

Awarded in round 1

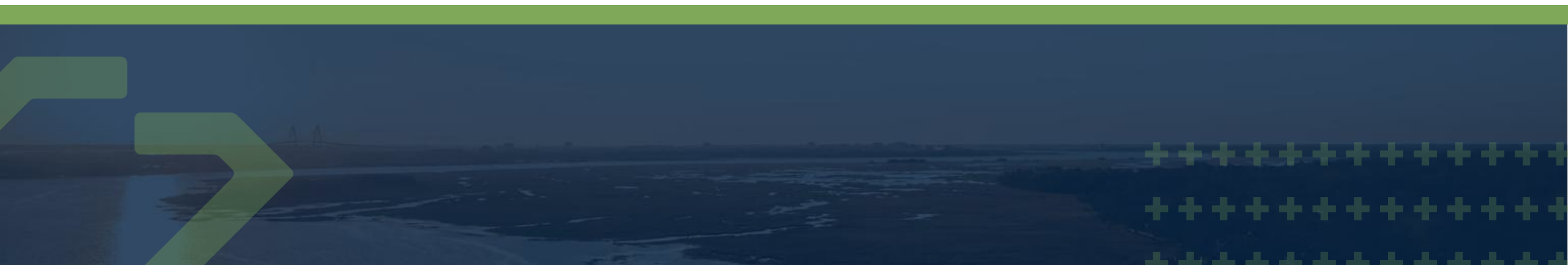
\$150,707

Awarded in round 2



Municipal Support + Land Use Planning

Growth is **inevitable**.
Sustainable growth is **imperative**.



Municipal Resilience + Sustainability Planning

- **Program:** Sustain SC in partnership with VisionGreenwood has created the Greenwood Resilience + Sustainability Council
- **Purpose:** To build a stronger, more resilient Greenwood through sustainable land use and development projects
- **Outcome:** A community model for municipal sustainability planning that can be applied across South Carolina



VISIONGREENWOOD

The logo for Velux, featuring the word 'VELUX' in white capital letters on a red rectangular background.

FURMAN

THE SHI INSTITUTE FOR
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Municipal Resilience + Sustainability Planning Process

1

Engage Stakeholders

4

Define Clear, Achievable Projects

2

Map Assets, Risks + Opportunities

5

Build a Practical Implementation

3

Identify Local Needs + Priorities

6

Secure Funding + Catalyze Partnerships



VISIONGREENWOOD

SUSTAIN^{SC}
commerce + conservation

VELUX®



FURMAN

THE SHI INSTITUTE FOR
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



Outreach + Education

Trends and Data for Decision Makers

CONSERVATION SUPPORT

Conservative Voters Continue Strong Support for Conservation

In a statewide poll, republican primary voters express significant support for conservation and resilience efforts across South Carolina

88.6%

Support General Assembly investment in disaster protection and flood-mitigation land conservation

81.4%

Support balancing water use between economic and recreation needs

84.7%

Say conserving land and water is essential to a sustainable economy and environment

93.1%

Believe public lands should be protected and accessible for future generations

CLEAN ENERGY SUPPORT

South Carolina GOP Voters Overwhelmingly Support Clean Energy Projects

A statewide poll of 500 GOP voters revealed that Republican and conservative Independent voters in SC strongly support clean energy projects, recognizing their benefits and favoring continued investment.

72.9%

Respondents support SC adding + using more renewable energy resources

73%

Strongly support modernizing, improving + securing the electrical grid + related infrastructure

78%

Respondents believe these actions have a positive impact on South Carolina

THANK YOU!



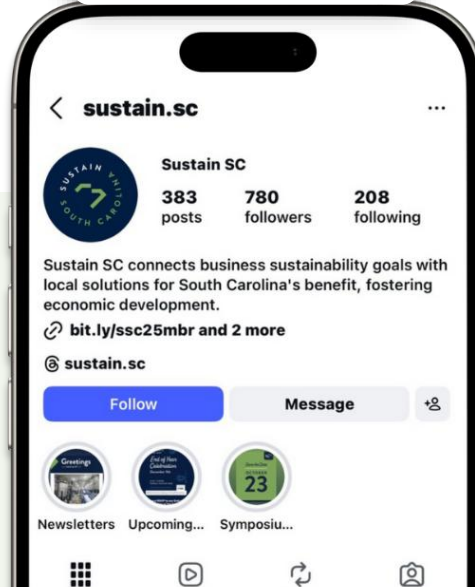
Join our Network and Stay Up to Date with Sustain SC!



@SustainSouthCarolina



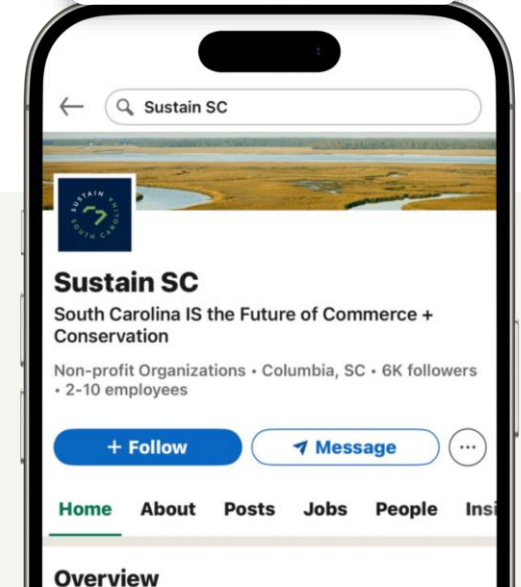
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commerce + conservation

together.

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