

Shine on

Boeing South Carolina turns to the sun as it looks to a renewable energy future **By Rob Gross**

When the first 787 Dreamliner rolls off of the Boeing South Carolina final assembly line in 2012, employees at the North Charleston facility will share immense pride in their historic accomplishment.

But the North Charleston team will be basking in the glow of something else as well—electricity generated by the warm South Carolina sun.

Construction workers are completing installation of a thin-film solar laminate energy generation system on the roof of the Boeing South Carolina Final Assembly building.

It is the largest rooftop solar installation in southeastern United States, as measured by production capacity. And it's one of the 10 largest in the nation. The system, generating enough electricity to power approximately 250 residential homes, will double current solar generation in the state of South Carolina.

"Our renewable energy agreement shows the world how committed we are to sustainable resources and operations. It tickles me pink!" said Hope Gonzalez, an environmental engineer at the site with Environment, Health and Safety.

The solar installation is the feature component of a partnership

between Boeing and South Carolina Electric & Gas, committing to 100 percent renewable energy use at Boeing South Carolina.

The power company will own and maintain the solar installation, which will generate up to 20 percent of the South Carolina site's energy needs. The remainder of the site's energy requirements will be met with renewable energy from the utility's biomass generation facilities, coupled with renewable energy certificates.

"We decided to make this investment in renewable energy at Boeing South Carolina because, from the standpoint of environmental responsibility, it's the right thing to do," said Rick Muttart, director of Site Services for the Midwest and East Region. "We all benefit from preserving the environments where we live and work. A commitment to renewable energy reduces potentially hazardous waste and makes more efficient use of resources."

That commitment has made an impression on those who work at Boeing South Carolina.

"It shows me that Boeing is truly committed to leading the pack when it comes to companies taking responsibility for reducing their impact on the environment," said Chris Eich, Final Assembly and Delivery Quality inspector. "It's important to me because I want to pass down a clean planet one day to my children and grandchildren."

This renewable energy commitment in South Carolina is indicative of how Boeing makes environmental responsibility a priority in every community it calls home.

"Our customers expect that Boeing's products and services be environmentally progressive, and our communities expect that we take credible actions to reduce our impact on the environment," said Mary Armstrong, vice president of Environment, Health and Safety. "The South Carolina site demonstrates that we share those



priorities and shows that it is possible to commit to renewable energy on a large scale."

That message resonates with the workforce.

"Boeing doesn't just talk the talk when it comes to protecting the environment, we walk the walk, too," said Albert Bujak, Final Assembly and Delivery manufacturing planner. "It's our responsibility to preserve what we have, and I'm proud to be a part of the Boeing family that has such high standards." ■

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PHOTOS: (Below) Solar panels are installed on the Boeing South Carolina 787 Final Assembly roof in July. The solar generation system will be operational this month. **ALAN MARTS/BOEING (Insets, from left)** An artist's concept of the completed roof system. **DAVID DANNER/BOEING** Unpacking installation materials; Mark Schwarztrauber, right, Boeing South Carolina project administrator, and Jack Robinson, South Carolina Electric & Gas project manager, review progress; and sections of solar panels are rolled out for installation. **ALAN MARTS/BOEING**

By the numbers:

10 acres (4 hectares)

Surface area covered by solar panels

18,000 panels

Number of solar panels

2.6 megawatts

Electrical power generated

20 percent

Amount of power generated by solar panels for the entire Boeing South Carolina site

