

## IN THE NEWS



### Solar company wants to invest \$354M in Darlington County

by Jim Faile, *Hartsville Messenger*, April 2, 2018

"DARLINGTON COUNTY, SC - A solar energy company wants to invest as much as \$354 million in Darlington County to build 17 solar farm facilities in the county.

The Darlington County Council gave final approval to an ordinance Monday to establish fee-in-lieu-of-taxes (FILOT) agreements with Southern Current LLC of Charleston, a leading developer in the residential, commercial and utility-scale solar markets.

The company manages projects from site selection and origination through construction and operation. It is the owner and developer of solar facilities across the Southeast. A number of solar energy companies have been looking at rural South Carolina, including Darlington County, over the past couple of years.

In February, Southern Current announced it plans to invest \$100 million on new solar energy facilities in Lee County.

The company informed county officials in 2017 that it intended to install solar power facilities on land owned private landowners and leased by the company. Solar farms are renewable energy systems that use solar power to produce electrical power.

Through the FILOT agreements - one for each property - the company will pay set fees on the 17 properties rather than traditional property taxes for a fixed number of years. Single-tract fees range from \$2.5 million to around \$6.7 million, while larger multiple tract projects could see fees in excess of \$80 million."

[Read more here](#)

## In This Issue

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**DCEDP Spotlight Event**

## PROGRESS MEMBERS

Next Board meeting:  
June 7, 2018  
at noon at SiMT

Industry Appreciation Event:  
May 31, 2018 5:00 to 7:00 pm  
at the Darlington Raceway Stock  
Car Museum  
RSVP by May 25 to  
[mperry@dcedp.com](mailto:mperry@dcedp.com)

## Share your news

Do you or your company have any Darlington County news to share? If so, email us [here](#) and we'll include it in our next newsletter and on our website.

## [Join Our Mailing List](#)

## Contact Us

**Monica Perry**  
Darlington County Economic  
Development Partnership  
843-413-3210



Two cranes Bluesaurus Rex and Incraneable Hulk, tear the ribbon to officially open the Dillon Inland Port Monday morning.

## **Ribbon is cut on Inland Port Dillon, Pee Dee's connection to the world**

by Matthew Christian, Florence Morning News, April 16, 2018

DILLON, S.C. - South Carolina's second inland port, Inland Port Dillon, is open for business.

In international trade, freight or goods being transported usually are sent in large containers that are, in turn, transported on ships. Those ships arrive at a port, such as Charleston, and the container is then offloaded onto trucks or rail to be transported to the final destination.

With the addition of the Inland Port Dillon, instead of being offloaded in Charleston, some of the containers will be offloaded in Dillon and transported via the CSX A rail line that runs from Jacksonville, Fla. to Baltimore and points north, Interstate 95 and, when it's constructed, Interstate 73 to their final destinations.

The process is reversed for freight being transported overseas. Once in containers, the goods will be transported by truck to the Dillon Inland Port, where the container will then be transported via specialized crane to rail to ultimately be transported to the Port of Charleston to be placed on a cargo ship and sent abroad.

It is expected the Dillon Inland Port will see 45,000 container movements from truck to rail in its first year. The state's first inland port, in Greer, started with 50,000 containers movements and was up to 124,817 in 2017.

[Read more here](#)



Norris Thigpen speaks during a Darlington County Economic Development Workshop held March 7 at SiMT.

## **Officials say South Carolina seeing record-making years in exporting**

by Melissa Rollins, Editor, News and Press, March 20, 2018

During a recent Economic Development Workshop at SiMT, attendees learned just how invested South Carolina companies are in exporting the goods produced within the state.

Norris Thigpen, with the International Strategy and Trade Division of the SC Department of Commerce, said that even though it is a relatively small state, South Carolina is a leader in export.

"Every single day what we are seeing is people and goods from the state of South Carolina traveling throughout the world and it is really exciting," Thigpen said. "We have goods that are manufactured here and the people who actually sell them and make them traveling overseas, representing our state. South Carolina is truly a global leader both in what we produce and as an exporter."

[Read more here](#)

## Mayo High named one of Palmetto's Finest schools

by Jim Faile, [Hartsville Messenger](#), March 20, 2018

DARLINGTON, S.C. - "When the announcement came Tuesday that Mayo High School for Math, Science and Technology had been named a 2018 Palmetto's Finest school, more than 300 students, faculty and staff who had packed into a meeting room erupted in cheers.

The announcement was streamed live from the studio of SCETV in Columbia.

"I've been in shock today," Mayo Principal Arlene Wallace said. "It's been wonderful for the school."

Mayo was one of five schools selected from around the state as a Palmetto's Finest school.

"Thank you for your hard work you have done as a school," Darlington County Interim Superintendent of Education Dr. Willie "Bill" Boyd told the crowd before the announcement. "You've worked hard. And when you work hard, the cream comes to the top."

[Read more here](#)



## State honors leadership in rural economic development

[Darlington News and Press Online](#), March 12, 2018

"COLUMBIA - The S.C. Department of Commerce gathered leaders from across the state on Monday, March 5 and Tuesday, March 6 for the 2018 South Carolina Rural Summit. Held in Columbia, this year's event featured leadership development sessions, opportunities to share best practices between community leaders, an awards ceremony and presentations from a variety of speakers, including Governor Henry McMaster and Giti Tire's Hank Eisenga.

Now in its 28th year, the Rural Summit provides community leaders, economic developers and state officials the opportunity to come together and learn about innovative methods to improve rural South Carolina. Additionally, the summit serves as a venue to honor individuals for work they've done to advance their respective

communities. This year's event was themed Redefining Place, Community and Quality of Life.

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The 2018 Rural Manufacturer Award was presented to **Sonoco**, a global provider of packaging products and services. Headquartered in Hartsville, S.C., the company has been an integral member of the Darlington County business community for 118 years. In fact, Sonoco has grown to become South Carolina's largest publically traded firm, by annual sales. Sonoco President and Chief Executive Officer Jack Sanders accepted the award on behalf of the company."

[Read more here](#)

## DCEDP SPOTLIGHT EVENT:



INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR  
INDUSTRY APPRECIATION EVENT

**"A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM"**



DARLINGTON  
EST. 1950  
RACEWAY  
STOCK CAR MUSEUM

1301 HARRY BYRD HIGHWAY, DARLINGTON, SC

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2018

DROP IN  
5PM - 7PM

PLEASE RSVP TO MONICA PERRY:  
(843)413-3210 OR MPERRY@DCEDP.COM



*Darlington County*  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Visit our website at [www.dcedp.com](http://www.dcedp.com)