



Darlington County
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Update

IN THE NEWS

NUCOR



Darlington County Council gives economic development measures final OK

by Jim Faile, *Hartsville Messenger*, July 2, 2019

"DARLINGTON, S.C. - The Darlington County Council gave final approval Monday to three ordinances in support of industrial development projects that together could bring more than \$224 million in new capital investment to the county.

Nucor Corp., previously identified by county officials only by the code name "Project Heat Wave," plans to invest at least \$75 million over five years to expand its manufacturing operations in the county. Nucor last week marked the 50th anniversary of its steel mill operation in Darlington.

The investment will include the acquisition of land, a building and primarily acquisitions of equipment and machinery, according to the ordinance approved by the council.

The ordinance states the acquisitions and improvements are estimated to cost at least \$75 million over five years. No new jobs are associated with the project, according to supporting information from the county. But officials say the project is critical to the company's continuing presence in Darlington County.

The measure provides for a fee-in-lieu-of-taxes (FILOT) agreement between the county and the Nucor.

The fee agreement between the county and the company will provide for a fee to be paid by Nucor to the county in lieu of property taxes at an annual assessment rate of 6 percent for a term of 30 years as well as the issuance of a special source revenue credit equal to \$25,000 per year for the company for the first 10 years.

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PROGRESS MEMBERS

Next Board meeting:
September 5, 2019
at noon at SIMT

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The ordinance says the project and the fee in lieu of taxes will benefit the county in several ways, including providing services, employment, economic development, recreation or other public benefits as well as an additional \$8.5 million in new revenue from the fee to the county over the 30-year term of the agreement.

Two ordinances that also received final approval Monday relate to plans by a Charleston-based solar energy company to build six new solar farm facilities in the county representing a projected total capital investment of as much as \$149 million.

That is in addition to the \$340 million that Southern Current said last year it plans to invest in Darlington County to expand its solar farm portfolio with 17 new facilities in the county.

[Read more here](#)



Unemployment down, wages and population up in NESAs region

by Andrew Golden, Special to the Florence Morning News, July 6, 2019

"Florence, S.C. - Roughly 10 years ago, counties across the state were experiencing a period of hard economic times, sky high unemployment rates, and little to no growth.

This was a nationwide epidemic, and the North Eastern Strategic Alliance (NESAs) region - Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro, and Williamsburg counties - were the hardest hit. In January 2010, the region saw its unemployment rate peak at 15.8 percent. For reference, the highest regional unemployment rate over the past 30 years prior to 2010 was 12.8 percent in January 1994.

"We have made great strides as a region since that time," NESAs Executive Committee Chairman Yancey McGill said. "Looking at where we were and looking at where we are now, is just remarkable. This region is flourishing and it has become a destination for companies across the world; meaning more jobs, higher wages and just better opportunities in general for folks across the region."

In just nine years, the unemployment rate has fallen a total of 12.2 percentage points to 3.6 percent as of April of 2019. Over that span, the region has seen the unemployment fall as low as 3.4 percent in May 2018."

[Read more here](#)



Governor, legislators help Nucor Steel celebrate 50th anniversary in Darlington

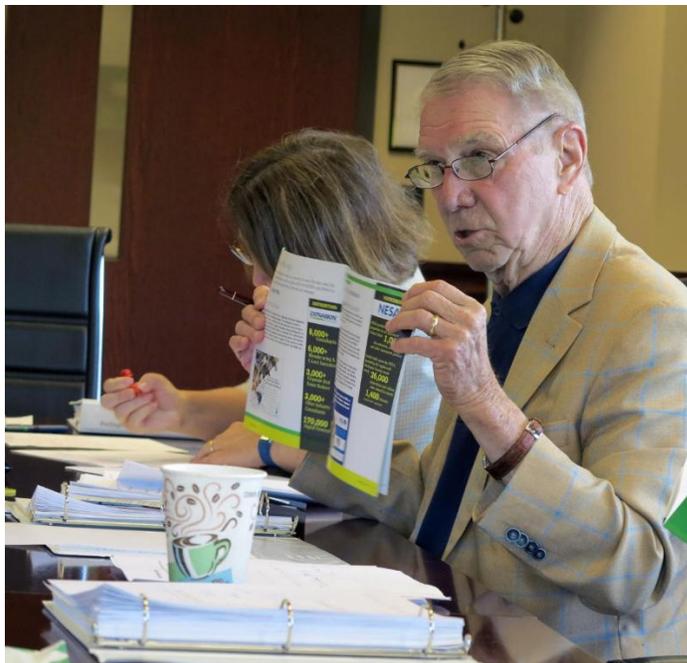
by Ardie Aridson, Florence Morning News, June 26, 2019

"DARLINGTON, S.C. - Nucor Steel-South Carolina in Darlington and its nearly 500 employees celebrated the mill's 50th anniversary on Wednesday with guest speakers and lunch on the grounds.

The anniversary event included remarks by S.C. Gov. Henry McMaster, Nucor Corporation chief executive officer and President John Ferriola and Ray Napolitan, executive vice president of engineered bar products, Nucor Corporation. S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas presented resolutions from the S.C. General Assembly.

Members of the South Carolina congressional delegation, state senators and representatives attended, along with members of the Darlington County Council and other local officials."

[Read more here](#)



Three new projects in works, Darlington County economic development group told

by Ardie Aridson, Florence Morning News, May 29, 2019

"FLORENCE, S.C. - The director of the Darlington County Economic Development Partnership said Wednesday that Southern Current's \$340 million investment in the county will have an economic impact of \$1 million every year for 30 years.

The Darlington County Economic Development Partnership met on Wednesday at SiMT.

Frank Willis, the director, gave an annual review of the Darlington County Economic Development Partnership. He said the only major investment last year was Southern Current's.

He said negotiations took more than a year to finalize. He said Birdsong Corporation in 2014 took just six or seven months, yet Fiber Industries in 2017 was two years in the making.

He said each project comes to fruition because "they (businesses) need something and we fill a need."

He said it could be workforce or logistics or something else. He said a new industrial park was created by Hartsville in 2018, bringing the number of industrial parks across the county to three.

Willis said the partnership is always looking for new sites around the county.

The target industries are plastics, metals, food processing, warehousing and distribution.

Willis said three new projects are in the works and they represent a combined total of \$300 million in capital investment. Darlington County Council has had first reading on one and second reading on the other two.

The annual review states that as of April 2019, Darlington County has 27 active leads in the "project pipeline. These leads represent \$750.2 million in potential capital investment and the creation of 2,223 new jobs."

"Things are pretty busy," Willis told the board.

The mission of the Economic Development Partnership is to strengthen Darlington County's economy by attracting new business and industry and helping existing businesses grow and expand. It recruits industry to invest and create jobs within the county, states the review."

[Read more here](#)



PolyQuest Inc. celebrates 15 years in Darlington

Staff Report, Darlington News and Press, April 9, 2019

"DARLINGTON, S.C. - What began in 2004 as one warehouse to store and ship resins to customers grew into a world-class manufacturing facility to process recycled plastics for the industry.

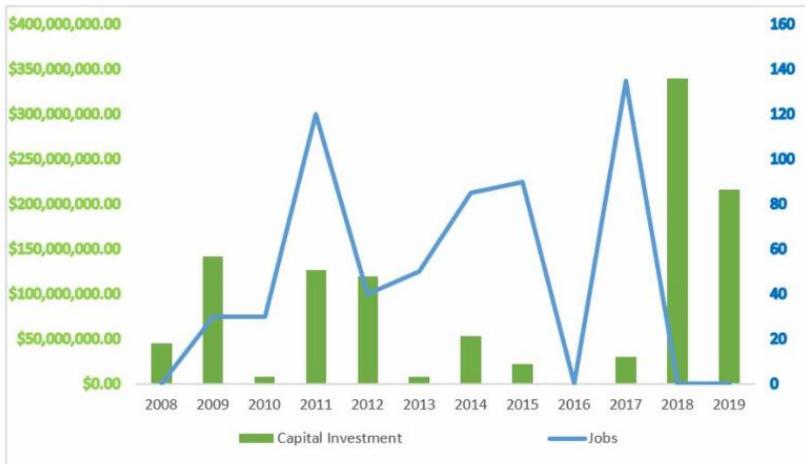
"We are a resin distributor and were in need of our own storage and logistical hub to service our customers and suppliers. Given its advantaged location and depth of labor force, Darlington was the logical location for us to establish this facility," explains John Marinelli, CEO of PolyQuest.

Over the past 15 years, PolyQuest has spent greater than \$30 million on six buildings with 345,000 square feet and 210 million pounds of plastic processing.

Marinelli said: "Our customers were in need of a solution for the plant scrap they generate within their own facilities. Simply landfilling this scrap or shipping it out of the country was not a sustainable way to deal with these byproducts. So we helped create a process to turn their plant waste into a product that they could reintroduce back into their process with great success."

[Read more here](#)

Over the Years: Darlington County's Capital Investment & Job Growth



Darlington County
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

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