



Solar power, the clean and silent energy of the future, is expanding every year in South Carolina, with nearly 500 installations in place statewide. In the not-so-distant-future, every home will be powered by clean, sustainable energy, like sun, wind, tide, hydroelectric or other non-fossil fueled means. The BP oil fiasco has demonstrated to even the most ardent fossil fuel advocate that we can't afford to continue on our old fossil-fuel burning ways.

The South Carolina Solar Council (SCSC), established in 2003, acts as a technology and education resource, and advocates legislation to promote the use of solar and sustainable energy in the state. Each fall, the Solar Council offers workshops to educate the public about solar energy, and arranges public tours of installations in several cities across South Carolina. This year, the program included Myrtle Beach, Charleston, Columbia, Greenville and Aiken. Workshops explaining costs, process, applications and incentives to get into solar, took place in each locale in September, and the self-guided tours takes place simultaneously on Oct. 2. Attending a workshop was not a prerequisite to attend the tour.

Each tour location will have someone, such as the homeowner or the solar equipment installer, available to demonstrate and explain the systems and to answer questions. Homeowners will likely talk about what motivated them to invest in their solar system, and what their experiences were like.

#### **Solar Tour Featured Installations:**

##### **Mimms Residence, 125 Angel Oak Lndg, Pawleys Island**

This system consists of a 4.2 kw solar photovoltaic solar system with 20 Sharp 208 watt PV modules and a Xantrax 4,000 watt inverter. The system is connected to the electric power line grid, providing power to the house, and excess power back to the utility lines. This system was installed by Carolina Solar of Surfside Beach in September 2008. Additionally, the tour location will feature a geothermal HVAC system and CFL lighting.

##### **Houghton Residence, 267 Patterson Dr, Briarcliff Acres in Myrtle Beach**

This home is equipped with a substantial 5.5 kw solar voltaic system also connected to the grid, sending excess power back to the lines. This system was installed by Solar Energy Pros of the Grand Strand.

##### **Kuperman Residence, 133 Greenlakes Dr, Myrtle Beach**

This residence has both solar thermal hot water heating and a solar photovoltaic array for electric power at 5 kw. The solar electric system is tied to the electric grid and returns electric power back to the utility. The contractor was Solar Energy Pros of the Grand Strand.

##### **Residence, 732 Jade Dr, Myrtle Beach**

This LEED Platinum award-winning home is predicted to be one of the most energy efficient of its size in South Carolina, with guaranteed heating, cooling and hot water costs of less than \$40 per month, in spite of its luxurious size and accommodations. Contractor Impressive Green Building installed a 4 kw solar photovoltaic system for electricity, a 160 gallon solar thermal system for domestic hot water, and a geothermal system for heating, cooling and back-up hot water to supplement the solar system.

##### **Residence, 2190 Deerfield Ave, Myrtle Beach**

Impressive Green Building installed a solar thermal system and a geothermal system for both heating and cooling in this home. The energy-efficient geothermal system uses the consistent moderate temperature of the Earth to cool in summer and heat during winter months, saving energy, money, fuel and the environment.

##### **Commercial Building, 320 Reindeer Moss Ct, Myrtle Beach**

The building, which serves as headquarters for Impressive Green Building, is used both as a laboratory for entrepreneur and owner Tom Baker to test alternative energy systems, as well as a demonstration platform to educate clients and the public about alternative and energy-saving solutions. The concrete building maintains a constant comfortable temperature and features a 4 kw photovoltaic solar array, an 80 gallon solar thermal system, a 1.2 kw Burgee wind tower integrated with the PV system, and a geothermal system for heating and cooling. Baker envisions adding battery banks to store the power to run the building, as well as to power a fleet of non-polluting electric service trucks. The tour is a small sample of many solar power installations on the Grand Strand. Contact the solar installers below for information and personalized tours of these and other installations they have completed in the area.

Carolina Solar and Carolina Cool, 1294 Surfside Industrial Park Dr, Myrtle Beach, 843-238-5805, CarolinaCool.com. See ad page ??

Solar Plus Energy Pros, 671 Jamestown Dr, Murrells Inlet, 843-446-0978, MyrtleBeachGreen.com. See ad page ??

Impressive Green Buildings, 2190 Deerfield Ave, Myrtle Beach, 843-215-2607, impressivegreen.com

The 2010 SCSC Solar Tour, workshops and program are coordinated by the South Carolina Solar Council, a state chapter of the American Solar Energy Society. The self-guided tours will take place Saturday, Oct. 2, from 1-5 pm. Sponsors include Santee Cooper, Velux Solar Water Heating, Sustainable Energy Solutions and Sun Banks Solar. For more info, visit [SCSolarCouncil.org](http://SCSolarCouncil.org).