



Environmental Education Association of South Carolina

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SC Green Step Schools Expanding with Dominion Energy Support

The SC Green Step Schools (SCGSS) environmental education initiative is set to reach more students, teachers, schools, and communities this year, thanks to funding provided by a Dominion Energy Environmental Education and Stewardship Grant.

SCGSS encourages and empowers SC teachers and students to plan, establish, and sustain school-based projects that enhance the environment. It does this by providing teachers with the training, mentorship, technical support, and other resources they need for these environmental projects to succeed. Supported projects include school gardens, campus wildlife habitats, recycling, composting, rain barrels, energy conservation, and more.

This year, SCGSS is expanding, thanks to the financial support provided by a \$12,000 Environmental Education and Stewardship Grant from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation. This funding will enable SCGSS to host educator trainings in more counties across the state, to recruit new project mentors, and to provide project mentorship to more schools who are interested in promoting environmental stewardship.

The SCGSS program is open to all public and private K-12 schools in SC, as well as to homeschool co-ops. Over the past six years, SCGSS participation has averaged 40 schools in 12 counties with approximately 30 expert mentors. The SCGSS has set an ambitious goal to expand into all 46 counties of SC by the year 2027.

“We are excited to reach new audiences and bring environmental education into new school communities,” says SCGSS program coordinator Jane Hiller. “SCGSS projects help children become environmental stewards while gaining academic, leadership, and social skills they need to succeed. Our projects provide wonderful opportunities for engaging, hands-on, student-powered learning.”

SCGSS is a program of the Environmental Education Association of SC (EEASC), a non-profit professional organization whose mission is to connect, support, and equip teachers and informal educators to promote environmental stewardship. “SCGSS is one of EEASC’s flagship programs,” says EEASC executive director Keith Willoughby. “We are very grateful for the support provided by Dominion Energy to expand this program and reach new and underserved areas of our state.”

To learn more about SCGSS, visit www.greenstepschools.com. To learn more about EEASC, visit www.eeasc.org. For a list of upcoming SCGSS educator trainings, visit www.eeasc.org/events.

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About the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation

About 7 million customers in 15 states energize their homes and businesses with electricity or natural gas from Dominion Energy (NYSE: D). Through its Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation, as well as EnergyShare and other programs, Dominion Energy contributed nearly \$50 million in 2021 to community causes. The Foundation supports nonprofit causes that meet basic human needs, protect the environment, promote education, and encourage community vitality. Please visit www.DominionEnergy.com to learn more.

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Cutline 1 of 3: Students from Aiken Elementary School host an outdoor classroom workday.

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Cutline 2 of 3: Students at Irmo Middle School learn why and how to compost.

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Cutline 3 of 3: Students at HERO Homeschool install a rain barrel at their local library habitat garden to water the trees they planted.

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