Richland County has made great strides to support for sustainability as a smart business strategy. Sustainability focuses on the relationship between economic strength, environmental stewardship, and social equity. Starting with $2.1M in stimulus dollars in 2010, the county jumpstarted projects to save energy, increase fuel efficiency, and reduce waste and in 2012 added a Sustainability Manager to Administration staff.

The real proof is in the numbers. Here are some highlights:

* Reducing energy by 1.7M KWh annually for residents and county buildings.
* Saving over 3,000 gallons of gasoline annually through the purchase of hybrid vehicles, paperless deeds software, and programs like the lawn mower exchange.
* Phasing in 95 gallon roll carts for residential recycling.
* LED lighting upgrades at Public Works and pilot upgrade at the Detention Center.

With the adoption of a Sustainability Policy in June, The County hopes to attain and maintain a state of leadership in the State of South Carolina as an environmental steward that strives to proactively and effectively manage its impact on energy, water, and other natural resources.

With so many initiatives, the program has developed a brand that summarizes sustainability and reflects an opportunity to improve and enhance quality of life for our residents: ENRICH;

**E**mphasize sustainability in planning

**N**otice the environment when purchasing

**R**educe energy in County buildings

**I**ncrease fuel efficiency

**C**onstruct energy efficient buildings

**H**ead toward zero waste

For more information about Richland County’s sustainability office click [here.](http://www.richlandonline.com/Government/Departments/Sustainability.aspx)

For many, the term environmental sustainability means "going green", something they need not concern themselves with during difficult economic times. However, this could not be farther from the truth. Sustainability, if applied correctly, not only conserves natural resources, but will reduce waste, consumption, and operating costs.

Richland County has made a conscious choice in the last five years to galvanize support for sustainability as a smart business strategy. Sustainability focuses on the relationship between economic strength, environmental stewardship, and social equity. Starting with $2.1M in stimulus dollars in 2010, the county jumpstarted projects to save energy, increase fuel efficiency, and reduce waste and in 2012 added a Sustainability Manager to Administration staff.

The real proof is in the numbers. Since 2011 the County has reduced energy use for residents and county infrastructure by 1.7M KWh annually through county building retrofits and the Richland County light bulb exchange program. The Richland County Administration Complex alone has reduced energy use by 15% since 2010 and staff continue to look at efficiency opportunities to save. In fact, just last month staff completed an LED lighting retrofit at Public Works and a pilot upgrade at the Detention Center.

The county has saved over 3,000 gallons of gasoline annually through the purchase of hybrid county vehicles, paperless deeds software, and programs like the lawn mower exchange. With new policies in place to promote, the county hopes to assess the current fleet and look for opportunities to reduce emissions.

That’s not all. The County is proudly phasing in 95 gallon roll carts for recycling and by this time next year all residents will have access to larger bins for convenient recycling to accommodate newly recyclable materials.

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