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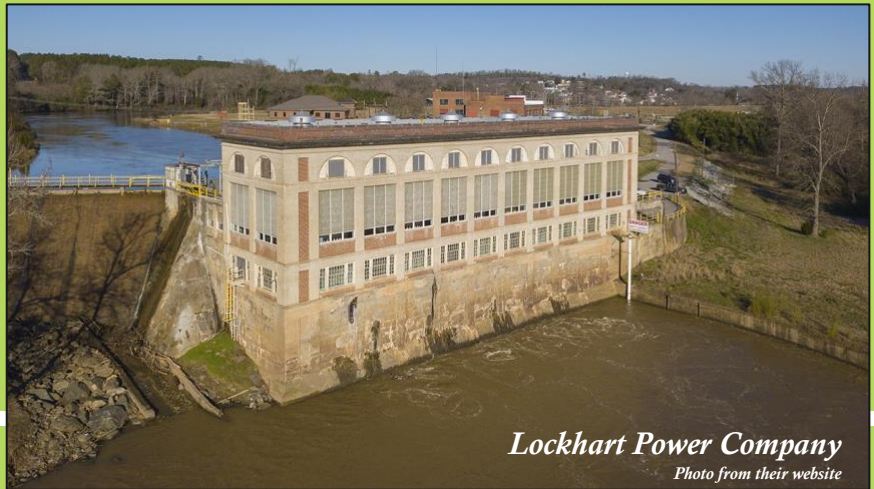
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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Volume 13, Issue 6



Lockhart Power Company
Photo from their website

Field Trip to Lockhart Power by Avery Goodale '26 and Rees Evans '25

Recently, Dr. Bradham's ENVS 150 Class (Intro to Earth Systems) took a trip to the Lockhart Power Company. Once greeted, we were taken to a room for meetings, where we learned more about the Lockhart Power Company. The company was formed in 1912 and began generating hydroelectric energy in 1920. However, the hydroelectric energy they were creating then was much different than the energy they are making now. Lockhart Power Company (an investor-owned electric utility) resides in the town of Lockhart in Union County.

Lockhart was a mill town when Lockhart Power Company was formed; the flowing water from the dam was used to turn the machines in the textile mill, and any other energy needs the mill had were met by a nearby coal plant. Since then, Lockhart Power Company has shut down the coal plant and now derives almost 100% of its energy from renewable resources; they recently generated enough renewable energy to serve 95% of their customers, and the other 5% they serve by buying energy from other sources.

Currently, Lockhart Power Company acquires its renewable energy from multiple

hydroelectric plants, about 60 acres of solar panels, and numerous landfill-gas-to-electricity facilities. These landfill-gas-to-electricity facilities harness the methane released from the decomposition in landfills and convert the methane to usable gas, which is then used to power a combustion engine.

Hydroelectric dams use the energy from a sharp decline in water elevation (generally a 50ft drop over a certain amount of ft) to spin magnets. There are magnets around the side of the spinning magnets that are still. The motion of the magnets rotating around the still magnets creates energy. They explained that they partner with several different power plants around the state to increase the number of companies using renewable energy. One of these power plants can be found in Columbia, where a flood in 2015 tore a hole in the hydroelectric dam that is still being fixed; the dam still cannot create power.

Interestingly, in 2020, Lockhart Power Company supplied 95% of its customers with renewable energy, making it the greenest energy power company in the nation!



Above: Students toured the operations center at Lockhart Power.

Below: Rivers West holds a turtle they found in the parking lot and safely moved to its natural habitat.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

October 29th

9:00-11:00am

Parking available at
Moveable Feasts on
E. Main Street

PAL Trail Clean Up at River Birch Trail: Bring your gloves and tools for fighting the invasive plant species and join PAL and Trees Coalition for the clean-up day. [Register here](#) to let them know you are coming.

October 31st

Application Deadline

South Carolina Wildlife Federation Scholarships: Any full-time students (graduate and undergraduate) currently pursuing degrees in any environmental field at South Carolina schools of higher education are eligible to apply. \$500 scholarships will be announced in January and awarded in February.

November 4th

Application Deadline

Hiring student for Goodall Center Garden: 3 - 5 hours per week helping Steve Patton. Duties will include basic garden tasks like planting and weeding, possibly some mowing and light construction. Eagerness to learn is more important than existing knowledge. If interested, please send Dr. Savage an email explaining your interest and if you have any experience. Availability Wednesday afternoons and/or Saturday mornings is preferred. Must have your own transportation. Pay is \$9/hour. Please feel free to pass the word to anyone you know who might be interested! The job is also posted on Handshake.

November 9th

4:30-5:30pm

Webinar via Zoom

Lehigh University Environmental Policy Program Open House: Prospective graduate students can [register](#) to learn more about the program.

November 12th

9:00-11:00am

Goodall Center, 351
Broadway St, Glendale, SC
29346

Second Saturdays Volunteer Day in Glendale: Join us on the second Saturday of the month to help beautify the garden and surrounding areas at the Goodall Center. [Register here to let us know you're coming.](#)

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Western Colorado University – Master in Environmental Management

The Clark Family School of Environment and Sustainability at Western Colorado University offers a [Master in Environmental Management \(MEM\)](#) with focuses in Global Sustainability, Integrative and Public Lands, or Sustainable and Resilient Communities.

Students on the Global Sustainability track participate in project on five different continents, which include a range of topics from natural resource conflict management to international conservation biology. In the Integrative and Public

Land management track, students participate in applied projects, field experiences and a self-designed [600-hour master's project](#). And students in the Sustainable and Resilient Communities track have an opportunity to partner with faculty to make a difference in the world working in areas such as nonprofit and for-profit management, alternative building, or environmental education.

Students can choose either a residential or distance learning option, as hybrid courses are accessible from anywhere in the world.
