At Oglethorpe Power Corporation, our commitment to the environment is rooted in four key principles: compliance, prevention, communication and continuous improvement.

- We comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulations and implement programs and procedures to ensure compliance.
- We strive to minimize adverse impacts to the environment and protect our employees and surrounding communities by employing environmentally sound technologies and operating procedures.
- We communicate our commitment to environmental quality to our employees, Members and partners. In addition, we ensure employees with specific responsibilities related to our environmental activities are well trained and prepared.
- We continuously look for opportunities to improve our environmental performance through the implementation of our Environmental Management System.

These principles drive our efforts to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy generation to our 38 Members [Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs)], while helping to preserve the environment for future generations.

Our Commitment to Environmental Excellence

Oglethorpe Power is among the nation’s largest wholesale power supply cooperatives. Our Member Owners are 38 of Georgia’s EMCs; electric utilities that distribute power to their customers — which include residents, businesses and public institutions — or about 4.1 million of Georgia’s 10.4 million people.

A Generation Cooperative Serving Our 38 Member Cooperatives

Oglethorpe Power’s Generation Facilities

Oglethorpe Power generates electricity for Georgia’s EMCs utilizing a diverse portfolio of nuclear, natural gas, coal and hydroelectric resources.

Transmission

Electricity is transmitted by our sister company, Georgia Transmission Corporation, across Georgia’s electric grid, connecting utilities to reliable and affordable energy through high-voltage power lines.

Distribution

Local EMCs deliver electricity to homes and businesses over separate networks of lower-voltage distribution lines.

Generation

To learn more about Oglethorpe Power, visit www.OPC.com.
Environmental Responsibility

Helping to create a safe, clean, healthy environment is at the heart of Oglethorpe Power's Environmental Management System. Over the years, our environmental performance has been recognized by independent third parties, and our management system has been certified by the American National Standards Institute. We have contributed to our environmental accomplishments:

Sustainability Programs

Our green initiatives help maintain a more sustainable environment and include single-stream recycling, reserved parking for carpools and hybrid vehicles, alternative work schedules, and the installation of electric vehicle charging stations.

Compliance

Our environmental performance record reflects full compliance with the increasingly stringent rules and regulations that govern our operations. We have more than a decade of stellar environmental compliance, with no Notices of Violation from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Investment in Emission Controls

Air quality control systems installed at our co-owned coal plants have significantly reduced emissions of sulfur dioxides (SO2), oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and mercury. Our investments in various types of emission control equipment total more than $1 billion.

Water Conservation

Water is used in electricity generation for cooling at our steam-cycle coal and nuclear plants, and is used in a lesser extent in single-cycle and combined-cycle natural gas plants. It also serves as pollution control for NOx and for SO2 scrubbing. Finally, water is the renewable fuel for our pumped-storage hydroelectric plant.

LEED Gold Certified

We have worked hard to increase the efficiency of our energy and water use, while incorporating sustainable practices into procurement, waste disposal and campus green space operations. By continuing to improve sustainability and efficiency programs, Oglethorpe Power headquarters has earned LEED Gold Certification and stands with the elite ranks of green buildings across the nation.

Community Service

As a responsible steward of our community, we are involved with a number of service projects that help maintain and preserve the environment. Employee volunteers participate in and the corporation supports Rivers Alive, Keep Georgia Beautiful, The Nature Conservancy and many other environmental programs to help care for natural habitats.

Ongoing Research

Over the years, we have partnered with EPA to participate in a number of environmental research projects. Research projects range from finding cost-effective ways to reduce emissions and understanding the impacts of particulate matter and other air pollutants on human health and welfare.

Environmental Responsibility

We have 100 percent renewable energy in our nuclear plants (four units), with two additional nuclear units under construction. Natural gas, hydroelectric and nuclear plants, and is used in a lesser extent in simple-cycle and combined-cycle gas-fueled generation facilities. Natural gas is relatively clean burning, resulting in fewer emissions of nearly all pollutants than from other fossil fuels.

Coal

In addition to our substantial investment in emission control equipment, two of our coal units burn a cleaner fuel that emits less SO2 and NOx than other coal alternatives.

Natural Gas

We are the operator and majority owner of a pumped-storage hydroelectric plant, which provides a clean energy source because it does not emit any pollutants into the atmosphere. To generate electricity during peak-load periods, the plant uses water that flows downhill from the upper reservoir to the lower reservoir. This water is then pumped back uphill using electricity from other sources during non-peak-load periods.

Nuclear

We have 30 percent ownership in two nuclear plants (four units), with two additional nuclear units under construction. Natural gas, hydroelectric and nuclear plants, and is used in a lesser extent in simple-cycle and combined-cycle gas-fueled generation facilities. Natural gas is relatively clean burning, resulting in fewer emissions of nearly all pollutants than from other fossil fuels.

Hydro

We own and operate a fleet of eight pumped-storage hydroelectric plants, which provide a clean energy source because it does not emit any pollutants into the atmosphere. To generate electricity during peak-load periods, the plant uses water that flows downhill from the upper reservoir to the lower reservoir. This water is then pumped back uphill using electricity from other sources during non-peak-load periods.

Other Renewables

Renewable energy resources are clean, carbon-neutral and constantly replenished. We have partnered with Green Power EMC, a non-profit corporation owned by 38 of Georgia’s EMCs, to secure renewable energy resources such as low impact hydro, biomass, landfill gas and solar to generate electricity. In addition, Green Power EMC provides educational programs to Members, consumers and Georgia schools.

Generation

Oglethorpe Power generates electricity for 38 of Georgia’s EMCs with a diverse portfolio of nuclear, natural gas, coal and hydroelectric resources. Renewable energy is available through a long-term partnership with Green Power EMC.

Water Conservation

Water is used in electricity generation for cooling at our steam-cycle coal and nuclear plants, and is used in a lesser extent in single-cycle and combined-cycle natural gas plants. It also serves as pollution control for NOx and for SO2 scrubbing. Finally, water is the renewable fuel for our pumped-storage hydroelectric plant.

Green Power EMC.

Green Power EMC, a not-for-profit corporation owned by 38 of Georgia’s EMCs, to secure renewable energy resources such as low impact hydro, biomass, landfill gas and solar to generate electricity. In addition, Green Power EMC provides educational programs to Members, consumers and Georgia schools.