Our Commitment to Environmental Excellence

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 assure 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 38 Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs), while helping to preserve the environment for future generations.

A Generation Cooperative Serving Our 38 Member Cooperatives

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 4.3 million people across Georgia.

How We Operate

- **Generation**
  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 millions 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.
Environmental Responsibility

Helping to create a safe, clean, healthy environment is at the heart of Oglethorpe Power’s Environmental Management System. Through the team, we have worked to improve our environmental performance to enhance the quality of the state of Georgia. Here are just some of the initiatives that highlight our environmental accomplishments:

Compliance

Our environmental performance record reflects full compliance with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Investment in Emission Controls

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

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.

Ongoing Research

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

Water Conservation

Water is used in electricity generation for cooling at our steam-cycle coal and nuclear plants, and is used to a lesser extent in simple-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. Oglethorpe Power is at the forefront of research efforts on methods for reducing water consumption through the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI).

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 ground 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 owner 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 organizations to help care for natural habitats.

Natural Gas

We own and/or operate a fleet of state-of-the-art combined-cycle and simple-cycle gas-fired generation facilities. Natural gas is a highly efficient fuel, resulting in lower emissions of nearly all pollutants than from other fossil fuels.

Coal

We continue to make substantial investments to limit environmental impacts from our coal assets, while at the same time optimizing their power generation and economics. Additionally, our coal generation has declined by 90% since 2008, resulting in a significant reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, the equivalent of taking more than 1.5 million cars off the road annually.

Hydro

We are the operator and majority owner of a pumped-storage hydroelectric plant, which provides a clean, energy source because it does not emit pollutants into the atmosphere. To generate electricity during peak-load periods, the plant pumps water that falls from the upper 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. Our Member EMCs have made significant investments in renewable energy, either alone or through their membership in Green Power EMC, and have a total capacity of 455 megawatts in solar and other renewable resources. Green Power EMC is a related renewable energy company owned by its Members, to which Oglethorpe Power provides management and various contractual services.

Nuclear

We have 30 percent ownership in two nuclear plants (four units), with two additional nuclear reactors under construction. In 2020, we announced the planned construction of two additional nuclear units so will own 50% of the fleet of nuclear generation plants that will ensure safe, reliable, clean and carbon-free base-load energy for many decades to come.

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Oglethorpe Power’s Generation Facilities

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