

1. Introduction

Santee Cooper is committed to creating a robust Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process and to continually engage stakeholders to solicit feedback, as per our mission. An IRP is a “roadmap” that considers a utility’s forecasted energy and demand and develops multiple portfolio resource options for serving the projected need. The IRP also selects a “preferred portfolio” of resources and develops a short-term action plan, covering the next three-year period, for implementing the portfolio. Finally, IRPs are updated continually as conditions change and assumptions are updated. Stakeholder engagement and input is an essential component of the IRP planning process.

For the 2023 IRP, Santee Cooper and Vanry Associates facilitated a stakeholder process that led to improvements to the IRP and planning processes through feedback received from participants. Santee Cooper intends to build on this foundation to continue to improve and extend its stakeholder engagement for future IRPs. As part of this commitment, Santee Cooper has formed a working group composed of members who represent a wide range of interests and perspectives.

The working group plays an essential role in developing IRPs, and the remainder of this Charter lays out the mission statement and objectives, composition and members, timeline, logistics and responsibilities, and media and external communications for the working group.

2. Mission Statement and Objectives

The working group’s mission is to provide a wide range of perspectives and expertise to inform the development of IRPs that are in the best interest of Santee Cooper’s customers and the State of South Carolina.

The objectives of the working group are to:

- Create an open dialogue around Santee Cooper’s IRP.
- Provide the opportunity to share wide-ranging and diverse opinions on the planning process, analysis, and the contents of the IRP.
- Provide a forum for deep and technical discussion of the assumptions, supporting studies, methodologies, portfolios and sensitivities, and analytics that support the development of an IRP, and the tradeoffs inherent to integrated resource planning.
- Collaborate and discuss how diverse perspectives and approaches could advise and benefit Santee Cooper’s IRP.

To fulfill the mission and objectives, working group members are committed to:

- Participate in an active and focused manner and commit to the success of the process.
- Build trust and strong relationships among the members.
- Consider the interests and concerns of all Santee Cooper stakeholders.
- Interact respectfully with all other members.
- Create transparency into the planning processes and assumptions.
- Create an open dialogue and encourage a diverse range of perspectives and input.
- Invest the personnel, time, and resources to fully participate in the working group.

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- Evaluate fairly and thoroughly the feedback and input from all members and keep the needs, concerns, and questions of members alive and present in the planning of IRPs.
- Recognize and agree that not all feedback can be incorporated into the development of IRPs, but that all perspectives will be considered.

3. Composition and Members

Santee Cooper desires to create a composition that represents a full range of interests. The working group has a set membership of organizations and individuals representing diverse interests and perspectives including government, regulatory agencies, environmental, social, customer classes, etc.

Each organization involved in the working group assigns a primary contact whose consistent involvement benefits the process and leads to overall success in meeting the mission and objectives. In their absence and inability to attend a scheduled meeting, each primary contact is responsible and encouraged to identify someone from their organization to attend in their place. If an organization desires to name a new primary contact, they will notify Santee Cooper of the change and share new contact information with the group.

Below are the organizations that currently make up the working group:

- Santee Cooper, including its employees and consultants
- Vanry Associates, the independent facilitator for the process
- South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
- South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- South Carolina Department of Environmental Services
- Central Electric
- Industrial Customer Association, J. Pollock
- Century Aluminum
- Nucor
- Messer
- Google
- South Carolina Association of Municipal Power Systems
- 4 Individual Members representing Residential, Commercial, and Industrial customers
- Carolina Clean Energy Business Association
- Conservation Voters of South Carolina
- Coastal Conservation League
- South Carolina Energy Justice Coalition
- South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center
- South Carolina Research Authority
- Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
- Southern Environmental Law Center
- Sierra Club
- Vote Solar

4. Timeline

The working group is envisioned as a continual process that does not currently have a set end date. Organizations and the individuals identified as the primary contact will continually evaluate their ability to effectively participate. If an organization or individual chooses to no longer participate in the working group, Santee Cooper will work to find a replacement that represents similar interests.

5. Logistics and Responsibilities

The working group largely engages through virtual meetings, facilitated by Vanry, held at least every three to four months. Meetings include technical presentations from Santee Cooper subject matter experts and consultants and allow for presentations from working group members and their experts who desire to share their thoughts and opinions. To increase transparency, Santee Cooper has provided public webpages and an Input and Feedback Forum for the working group to share feedback and relevant documents and data.

The working group is meant to be a collaborative process with open communication. Members are encouraged to contact Santee Cooper and other working group members through email or phone calls outside of regular meetings. Each working group member, including Santee Cooper, will provide contact information for use in communications.

Below is a list of specific responsibilities for Santee Cooper, Vanry, and stakeholder members. The list also includes details on logistics for the working group engagement.

Santee Cooper:

- Provide the working group with a schedule of meetings and priority topics. Generally, the working group will meet every three to four months.
- Consider and evaluate all feedback and opinions fairly and earnestly.
- Document feedback received during the process.
- Provide feedback on how input from the working group has materially impacted the development of IRPs.
- Share materials pre- and post-meetings in a timely manner. Santee Cooper will try to provide materials three to four days prior to each meeting.
- Maintain a public webpage dedicated to the working group, which includes meeting materials, relevant reports and studies, and shared data.
- Provide an Input and Feedback Forum for working group members to provide feedback.
- Submit summaries of meetings and the overall process to the Public Service Commission (PSC).

Independent Facilitator – Vanry Associates:

- Ensure they remain an independent facilitator.
- Bring the groups' attention, when necessary, to the agreed upon commitments and responsibilities as outlined in this Charter.
- Engage working group members to ensure the process is meeting expectations and goals.

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- Provide tools to assess the effectiveness of the engagement, allowing working group stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on the process.
- Provide meeting notices generally one month prior to meeting dates.
- Develop and produce meeting summaries.

Stakeholder Members:

- Review materials, attend meetings, and actively participate in discussion during meetings.
- Designate an alternate from their organization to attend a meeting if they are unable to participate.
- Invite additional personnel, who may be subject matter experts on particular topics, from their organization to meetings while considering the desire to keep meeting group size to a manageable level.
- Present, when requested, at meetings and provide their organizations' thoughts, perspectives, proposed approaches, etc.
- Request, if desired, Santee Cooper to host technical meetings on specific topics with a smaller group of interested members.
- Provide feedback for the development of IRPs.
- Provide feedback on the stakeholder working group process.

6. Media and External Communications

The intent of the working group is to create a collaborative and open discussion regarding Santee Cooper's IRP. Recognizing that member organizations are free to express their opinions and thoughts, members are asked not to speak to the media or external groups on behalf of the working group. This will ensure that the group is able to meet its mission, objectives, and commitments.

Working group materials listed below will be posted to the IRP web page and made available to the general public:

- Presentations from meetings
- Summaries for all meetings, including technical meetings
- Posts and documents submitted through the Input and Feedback Forum