

Applicant Information

Instructions

- 1) Review the eligibility information, evaluation criteria, and award recipient requirements before completing the grant application.
- 2) Complete this **EVOlve Grant Application**. Compile and submit all necessary supporting documentation.
- 3) E-mail the complete application package to e-mobility@santeecooper.com with “**EVOlve Grant**” in the subject line.

The application package should include:

- a) **EVOlve Grant Application** (PDF)
 - b) Supporting documentation (specified in the **Application Checklist**). Compile attachments into a single PDF or attach as separate files.
- 4) Submit applications by the 11:59 pm EST **August 15, 2025**, due date.

EVOlve Grant Information

Santee Cooper is pleased to make transportation electrification funding available to eligible commercial customers (as defined in the **Requirements and Eligibility** section below).

Funding Allotments and Maximums

The **applicant is responsible for all up-front costs associated with the project.** At project closeout, Santee Cooper will **reimburse** the applicant for eligible project costs ranging from 25 to 100 percent in one or more of the project categories provided in table 1 below up to a maximum of **\$25,000 of total funding**.

Table 1 breaks down the maximum funding percentage by project category:

Table 1. Maximum Funding by Project Category*

**Grant requests can combine one or more of the listed categories below*

Project Category	Maximum Santee Cooper Funding
Make-Ready Research / Needs Assessment	100%
Education / Outreach	100%
Electric Fleet Conversion	25%
Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure	50%

The Preliminary Financial Summary section of the application reflects how the funds will be allocated to each project category to determine the reimbursement from Santee Cooper.

The example below shows a project that has an education/outreach component as well as an EV charging infrastructure component. In this example project, the applicant could apply for up to \$25,000 in funding from Santee Cooper.

Project Type	Estimated Costs	Maximum Santee Cooper Funding	Total Grant Request
Education/ Outreach	\$10,000	100%	\$10,000
EV Charging Infrastructure	\$30,000	50%	\$15,000
Total Grant Request			\$25,000

Requirements and Eligibility

Santee Cooper commercial customers on a GA, GB, GL, or GT rate are eligible to apply for the grant program. To be considered, applicants must:

- Submit a completed **EVOlve Grant Application** along with supplementary documentation (detailed in the **Instructions** and **Application Checklist**) by the posted deadline.
- Participate in program evaluation activities (e.g., surveys/questionnaires).

Eligible Expenses:

- New electric vehicle purchase (light-, medium-, or heavy-duty vehicles)
- Capital expenses directly associated with the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure (e.g., hardware and installation costs, make-ready costs, and upfront software license costs)
- Costs related to approved Education / Outreach
- Expenses related to Make-Ready Research / Needs Assessment

Ineligible Expenses:

The following costs are NOT eligible for reimbursement:

- Structural improvements or site preparation that would be considered general facilities maintenance (e.g., re-paving, upgrading an overloaded electrical panel, landscaping, etc.) not associated with EV charging infrastructure installation
- Construction bond costs, interest, and warranty charges
- Leased equipment (vehicles or charging)
- Vehicle or driver insurance
- Ongoing system or facility maintenance or repair costs
- Donated, in-kind or volunteer labor or materials
- Costs incurred prior to award (e.g., engineering designs, site evaluations, estimates/bids)
- Low Speed Electric Vehicles (Golf Carts, ATVs, etc.)

Project Examples

To adapt to a rapidly evolving market, there is flexibility in the types of projects considered for grant funding. **Table 2** shows potential project types. These project examples are illustrative and do not rule out alternative project proposals from consideration. You can apply for one or a combination of any of the project categories. Projects are not limited to the examples shown, but funded awards cannot exceed \$25,000 total.

Table 2. Project Examples

Project Category	Project Example
Education / Outreach	An applicant requests funding to create a special EV event (e.g., a university proposes a showcase for students, faculty, and community members).
	An applicant requests funding to create a public outreach program to educate local communities or groups about the environmental benefits of EVs.
Electric Fleet Conversion	An applicant requests funding to convert light-, medium-, or heavy-duty vehicle(s) from internal combustion engines (ICE) to electric vehicles (EV). This can be a single vehicle or part of a larger plan to electrify their fleet.
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	An applicant (e.g., multifamily property or business owner) requests funding to install EV charging infrastructure and provide charging as an amenity for use (e.g., public, workplace, etc.).
Make-Ready Research / Needs Assessment	An applicant requests funding for an assessment or study with the goal of expanding EV/electrification options and infrastructure (e.g., in a city, county, region, community, etc.).

Figure 1 shows the timeline for the current funding cycle.

Figure 1. EVOlve Grant Timeline

Begin accepting applications:
March 3, 2025

Notification and Selection:
November 30, 2025



Applications Due:

**August 15, 2025,
11:59 pm EST**

Grant Recipient Responsibilities

Grant recipients will serve as project lead and be responsible for project design, project management, equipment purchase and installation, awareness building, as well as the ongoing costs of operating and maintaining any charging equipment.

- Preference may be given to projects with:
 - The ability to collect and transfer data to Santee Cooper.
 - A specific focus on communities underserved by transportation electrification (rural communities, low-to-medium-income communities, low/medium-priced multi-family units, environmental justice communities, etc.).
- Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate how the EVOlve Grant is essential to funding the project.

Grant recipients will have one calendar year to complete projects from the date of award. Project extensions are not guaranteed but may be requested and approved at Santee Cooper's sole discretion.

Projects will be reimbursed after closeout up to the award amount for documented eligible expenses. Eligible expenses are limited by the **Funding Allotments and Maximums** and **Maximum Funding by Project Category** sections.

Application Evaluation

Santee Cooper uses an independent, third-party grant manager to review and score projects based on the criteria outlined in **Table 3** below.

Table 3. EVolve Grant Criteria

Criteria	Measures
Project Design and Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project need has been clearly identified • Project serves the identified need and provides direct community benefits (economic, environmental, educational, and/or social) • Project benefits underserved communities (rural communities, low-to-medium-income communities, low/medium-priced multi-family units, environmental justice communities, etc.) • Partner and/or vendor engagement • Community input and engagement (e.g., residents, guests, workplace, public, etc.) • Key project elements included
Feasibility and Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viability of the project plan and timeline • Identified potential barriers and plan to address them • Technology aligns with the project goals
Costs and Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant has demonstrated need for EVolve grant funding • Alignment of project costs with industry standards • Viability of the proposed budget • Financial risks are identified and mitigated

EVOlve Grant Application

Interested applicants should complete and submit the grant application form below.

Applicant Information	
Name of Organization	The Electric Center
Santee Cooper customer account number (If applicant is not the property owner, please complete the Landlord Consent Form and submit with application packet)	12345678
Organization website address, if applicable	theelectriccenter.com
Primary Project Contact Information This contact will be the primary point of contact responsible for project updates, reports, and coordination. Please notify e-mobility@santeecooper.com as soon as possible if the primary contact changes.	
Name	Ampy Joule
Title	Manager
Organization name	The Electric Center
Role in the project	Project Manager
Phone number	843-555-5555
Email address	ampy@electriccenter.com
Additional Contact Information Provide the names of key staff involved and their contact information.	
Name Phone number Email address	Sparky Watts 843-444-4444 misterwatts@electriccenter.com
Name Phone number	Breaker Badd 843-333-3333

Email address	bbadd@electriccenter.com
Additional Applicant Details:	
Type of applicant (Local Non-profit, Higher Education, etc.)	Non-profit
Name of individual completing application (Include affiliation and contact information if different from primary contact or contractor/installer)	Benjamin Franklin Grant Writer Grant Writing Company, Inc. (111) 222 - 3333 Bfranklin@grantwriting.com
How did you hear about Santee Cooper's EVolve Grant program? (Select all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill insert <input type="checkbox"/> Online ad <input type="checkbox"/> Word-of-mouth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Santee Cooper website <input type="checkbox"/> Santee Cooper employee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> News article <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)
Please verify that the project satisfies the Requirements and Eligibility provided above	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify that this project meets Santee Cooper's EVolve Grant funding award eligibility requirements listed under Requirements and Eligibility.

Physical address where project will be implemented.

- Include facility name, street address, city, state, zip code, and/or GPS coordinates.
- If the project does not have a specific address, please explain the route, stops, or localized areas that the project will be serving.

Funding will be for an Educational/Outreach project that will host events throughout the USA (and potentially outside of USA). The Electric Center is located at 1234 Main St, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577.

Project Category

(Select all that apply. Your grant request can include one or a combination of any of the categories listed.)

- ☒ Education/Outreach
- ☐ Electric Fleet Conversion
- ☐ Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
- ☐ Make-Ready Research/Needs Assessment
- ☐ Other. Please explain:

Equipment Details

(Complete all that apply)

**For EVSE Projects
(Charging Infrastructure)**

☐ Level 2

Quantity:

☐ DCFC

Quantity:

Total Number
of Ports

EVSE
Manufacturer
Name and
Model

Charging
Accessibility
(Choose all
the apply)

- ☐ Public
- ☐ Workplace
- ☐ Private

	For EV Purchase Projects	
	Total Number of Vehicles to be Purchased	
	Make and Model of Each Vehicle	

Project Design and Benefits

Project Purpose

At a high level, provide a summary of the project and its purpose.

Our partners have seen the powerful results of EV education and events. Over # % of test drivers surveyed after our events later purchased an EV after experiencing the tremendous value they offer.

Why will our engagements be successful? Our team takes a creative approach. We engage local dance teams and professionals, bring in live music, and pump up the jams in our EVs to make the events a hopping experience and somersault the community into an electric slide.

Needs Addressed

What is the unmet need that this project will address? What is the evidence of that need?

Despite persuasive reasons to switch to electric transportation (such as reduced fuel costs and a quiet ride) and rapid advances in electric vehicle technology, many Americans (# %) have never ridden in an EV (according to Example News Source). This highlights the need for test drives and education to help consumers understand EV benefits and incentives.

Benefits to the Community

How will this project meet that unmet need? Include environmental, economic, equity, and educational benefits to the community.

These events will provide economic, environmental, and social benefits where they are located. Economically, the events will spur increased consumer engagement in EVs and create a measurable increase in EV sales. Hiring local companies will keep the funding in the area and will help communities reap the benefits. Environmentally, the increase in electric vehicle sales offers the opportunity for the reduction of harmful emissions and improves air quality. Socially, our project specifically targets our educational outreach to historically underserved communities, such as low-income communities. Additionally, the music, fun, and learning will spark enjoyment and enrichment for the local residents.

Provide a rough estimate for the project's expected utilization.

Provide an estimate of the number of people impacted by this project and describe how you estimated that number. Please refer to the examples below but provide answer(s) specific to your project.

(e.g., What contributed to the estimate? Are there EVs on site via visitation or residency and is that expected to increase? If this is an education or outreach event, how many people are expected to attend?)

The Electric Dance-and-Drive EV Showcases, test driving EVs, and education materials at the event are estimated to have a large impact on the community. Based on similar event attendance, we predict that at least 300 residents in Santee Cooper's territory will attend each event, immediately impacting about 900 attendees. The events will increase attendees' understanding and awareness of EVs over the long term. As they share their experiences with family and friends, many others will benefit. By conducting surveys and counting the number of event attendees, we will track performance towards this goal over the long term to see what impacts are evident proceeding the event. Over the long-term, our team also expects to see an increase in EV purchase and subsequent EV charger usage, word-of mouth education, and overall presence in Santee Cooper's territory.

Describe the type(s) of data that will be available to share with Santee Cooper after implementation.

(e.g., interval energy consumption, average session duration, station usage by time of day, number of unique drivers, number of webinars, number of demonstrations, etc.)

Partners and volunteers will count general attendance and test drive participation, collect contact details, and perform short surveys before and after the test drives. Email surveys will also be sent after the events to gauge the event experience's rating, whether attendees made an EV purchase, and determine their future purchase interest level. All participation metrics, survey findings, community feedback, and lessons learned will be shared with and reported to Santee Cooper.

Community Input and Outreach

How are you involving the communities beyond internal project team in project planning and execution? Provide input received from community groups related to the project. What events and communications are planned alongside the physical project? How will community groups be engaged during or after implementation?

Examples of "community" include residents, guests, workplace, public, etc.

We are already in contact with X, Y, and Z community groups and organizations who support the idea of these events. We are in contact with all our proposed partners, the local cities, and various leaders throughout the state. The proposed solution will support the desires of residents and cities to have EV driving exposure and experiences made available at public events in multiple communities.

The primary focus of these events will be resident engagement, awareness, and education. We will provide educational resources that can be shared in urban areas, as well as smaller cities and rural areas in Santee Cooper's territory. Improved understanding will increase transportation electrification and address any questions and misinformation related to it. Providing electric vehicles to test drive, knowledgeable outreach staff, and educational opportunities will draw in and allow residents to explore EVs in a fun and relaxed setting. These combined elements will enable us to share the EV experience with hundreds of South Carolina residents.

Partner Organizations

Provide the names and describe their role in designing or implementing the project.

Spark Messaging and Awareness (Partner 1) is a local 501c3 nonprofit that will provide added value by donating materials they have already developed for other similar events as a template and starting point for this event.

Hitching a Ride Rental Car Company (Partner 2) is a for-profit rental car company based in South Carolina that has committed to providing a unique EV car, truck, and SUV from their fleet that aligns with community interests and needs. The vehicles will be at each event and available for test drives.

Cities of X, Y, Z - The Cities are excited about the project and have offered to reach out to their local volunteer networks to help promote and staff the events. They are also planning to post the events on their websites, event calendars, and in their newsletters.

County X - The County will help to find local event volunteers to help with the county fair event.

Vendor(s)

List any vendors that will be enlisted in implementing the project. Provide the contact information for the contractor/installer/engineer for the project.

Event vendors are still undetermined. However, we will work with our partners to designate quality vendors for all events.

Feasibility and Timeline

Project Timeline

Please provide your project timeline, indicating milestones, anticipated completion dates, and additional details.

The project will begin immediately after the grant is awarded. The team will spend 5 months creating the project plan and planning events in cities and counties. 4 months will be spent delivering events, education, and outreach. 4 months will be used for survey analysis and reports report for a full list of events, timelines, and milestones please see the attached Gantt chart.

Timeline Risks and Mitigations

What possible risks do you foresee with implementing your project and meeting your outlined timeline? How will you mitigate those risks?

**The identification of risks and plan for mitigating them will not have a negative impact on your application.*

We do not foresee too many risks with implementing this project. However, we want to ensure we are prepared to hit the ground running with our event planning timeline as soon as we receive the award. Therefore, we plan to remain highly organized by delegating an event planning team while we await the grant decision. If we receive the grant award, we will then be well-prepared to utilize our 5 months to effectively create and plan our events. We believe proper planning ahead of the grant award decision will allow us to stay within our proposed timeline.

Technology

Why is this the right technology for this project? What needs are you considering in selecting the electric vehicle and charging infrastructure? If your project includes vehicles but no charging infrastructure, please describe your plan for charging the EVs.

N/A

Costs & Financing

The applicant is responsible for all up-front costs associated with the project. At project closeout, Santee Cooper will reimburse the applicant for eligible project costs ranging from 25 to 100 percent in one or more project categories up to a maximum of \$25,000.

Financial Structure

Describe the financial structure of the project. Who will own the assets? Where will they be located?

Please see the Preliminary Financial Summary. The project will be owned by the applicant (The Electric Center) which will receive all financial benefits. The financial benefits are limited as this is a service being provided near to cost by a nonprofit. Most of the equipment (EVs and event-related) will be rented and maintained by the rental company through internal sources of funding. Any equipment purchased by The Electric Center, or its partners will be maintained by the The Electric Center or its partners through internal funding.

Cost to the Public

If the charging assets will be made publicly accessible, what will it cost the public to use the asset? What payment mechanisms are/will be made available?

(e.g. \$5 per hour, \$0.30/kWh, etc.)

N/A

Financial Risks

What possible financial risks do you foresee with implementing your project and meeting your outlined budget? How will you mitigate those risks?

**The identification of risks and plan for mitigating them will not have a negative impact on your application.*

The biggest financial risk will be staying within budget for our various educational events. To ensure we stick with the proposed budget, there will be someone on the event planning committee who is responsible for budget oversight. This will allow us to stay accountable for the budget we will be awarded for our educational outreach events.

Please explain why the EVOlve grant funding is critical to execute this project successfully.

Would this project be possible without grant funding? Why does your organization need this grant?

We have seen well documented success and influence from our similar events in X region which took place in 20XX. While we can host test drive events with just the cars, the Electric Dance-and-Drive EV Showcases offers a sensory and enjoyable community experience that teaches people how to use the cars and leaves a lasting memory.

However, The Electric Center is a nonprofit. So far, we have raised \$20,000 through another grant and \$5,000 for this project internally. We are committed to the vision and the project. However, we are short on the budget to deliver it. This \$25,000 EVolve grant will allow us to the remaining budget to launch these events and ensure their relevance and success with our community partners' guidance.

PRELIMINARY Financial Summary

Complete each section as it applies to your project with the estimated* costs.

Refer back to Table 1 above for the maximum funding percentage by project category.

Total requested grant funding provided by Santee Cooper not to exceed \$25,000. **Please refer to the list of eligible and ineligible expenses before completing this section.**

Example: Estimated costs of \$10,000 for Education/Outreach and \$30,000 for EV Charging Infrastructure results in Requested Grant Funding of \$10,000 (100%) for Education/Outreach and \$15,000 (50%) for EV Charging Infrastructure for a total of \$25,000.

**Supplemental documentation (e.g., bids, estimates) are required to support requested costs.*

Make Ready & Needs Assessment – up to 100%

Cost(s) Description: (provide details of what the estimated cost(s) will include)	N/A
Estimated Costs	\$
Maximum Grant Funding	100%
Requested Grant Funding for Make Ready & Needs Assessment:	\$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cannot exceed estimated costs * maximum grant funding - Cannot exceed \$25,000 total

Education & Outreach – up to 100%

Cost(s) Description: (provide details of what the estimated cost(s) will include)	The approximate costs are based off Electric Dance-and-Drive EV Showcase proposal costs our team has put together.
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Estimated Costs	\$15,000 - Event Rental Related Costs (Supplies, EV Rentals, A/V Equipment \$5,000- Event Catering \$5,000 - Other Misc Event Costs (Staffing, Technology, Marketing/Signage).
Maximum Grant Funding	100%
Requested Grant Funding for Education & Outreach:	\$ 25,000 - <i>Cannot exceed estimated costs * maximum grant funding</i> - <i>Cannot exceed \$25,000 total</i>
Electric Fleet Conversion – up to 25%	
Cost(s) Description: (provide details of what the estimated cost(s) will include)	N/A
Estimated Costs	\$ -
Maximum Grant Funding	25%
Requested Grant Funding for Electric Fleet Conversion:	\$ - <i>Cannot exceed estimated costs * maximum grant funding</i> - <i>Cannot exceed \$25,000 total</i>
Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure – up to 50%	
Cost(s) Description: (provide details of what the estimated cost(s) will include)	N/A
Estimated Design / Construction / Electrical / Labor Costs:	\$ -
Upfront Software Costs:	\$ -
Equipment Costs:	\$ -
Estimated Total Costs:	\$ - - <i>Sum of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Design/Construction/Electrical/Labor Costs</i> ○ <i>Upfront Software Costs</i> ○ <i>Equipment Costs</i>
Maximum Grant Funding	50%

Requested Grant Funding for Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure:	\$ <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Cannot exceed estimated total costs * maximum grant funding</i>- <i>Cannot exceed \$25,000 total</i>
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Certification

I certify that I have reviewed the application and the award recipient requirements in preparation for applying for this grant.

I understand and certify that should this project be awarded funding, my organization will be able to meet the award recipient requirements as described at <https://www.santeecooper.com/Programs-Incentives/EmpowerAuto/Commercial/>. I also understand that if awarded, I am responsible for all up-front costs to implement the outlined project and will be reimbursed at project closeout for eligible costs ranging from 25 to 100 percent in one or more project categories up to a maximum of \$25,000 of total grant funding.

I attest that the information provided in this application is both accurate and current.

I also understand that submitting an application in no way obligates Santee Cooper to provide funding to this project and that funds are distributed at the sole discretion of Santee Cooper.

Signature:	<u>Benjamin Franklin</u>	Date:	<u>5-30-25</u>
Printed name:	<u>Benjamin Franklin</u>		
Title:	<u>Grant Writer</u>		
Organization:	<u>Grant Writing Company, Inc.</u>		
Contact number:	<u>123-456-7891</u>		

If this request is being submitted by multiple parties or a party other than the project owner, please indicate below by providing the party's name, title and contact information.

The project owner must approve the submittal on their behalf through a signature, demonstrating that all the parties linked to the project have reviewed the application and support the project, along with supporting documentation (please see the **Application Checklist** below for a comprehensive list of required attachments).

Approving party (project host/owner) – if other than project applicant.

Signature:	<u>Ampy Joule</u>	Date:	<u>5-30-25</u>
Printed name:	<u>Ampy Joule</u>		
Title:	<u>Manager</u>		
Organization:	<u>The Electric Center</u>		
Contact number:	<u>123-456-7891</u>		

Checklist of Supplemental Documents for Applications with Physical Assets

For any project that includes the installation of infrastructure, procurement of EVs, or any other physical assets, the following documents are required.

- ☐ **Equipment Specifications.** Overview of physical assets (EV or EV charging infrastructure equipment) with description, features, and support information.
Documentation of basic equipment/component details (e.g., manufacturer, make, model, reliability, safety, capabilities, power load, features, etc.).
- ☐ **Preliminary Financial Summary.** Include a project total and itemized cost breakdown in the Excel template on the website. You should include any matching or contributing funds your organization is using to fund the project, estimated costs, etc. Please be as detailed as possible and fill out all tabs and cells related to your project category.
- ☐ **Site Control Agreement.** Required only if project involves permanently installing infrastructure or making physical changes to a site. See instructions below:

If applicant is the property owner:

- ☐ Copy of Land Ownership Documentation

If applicant is NOT the property owner at the location of the proposed project, you must submit each of the following:

- ☐ Landlord Consent Form (this must be completed by the property owner)
- ☐ Copy of Long-term Lease Agreement

If you are unable to provide any of the required documents, please explain:

Not Applicable (N/A) - This project will not involve the procurement or installation of physical assets such as electric vehicles or chargers. EVs and event equipment will be rented. Host agreements/event permits will be obtained for each of the applicable sites and events.

Optional Documents for All Applications

The following documents are optional but may strengthen your application.

☐ **Letters of Support**

- ☒ Other support letters from key community members or leaders, etc. may be provided to support the application.

☐ **Team Credentials.** A list of project team members, roles, and qualifications, such as:

- ☒ Resumes of the project manager and other key team members.
- ☒ List of any similar projects completed.