



Magazine

**By Alexis Manuel**

Solvay Energy Services - Business Line Manager - Renewables

## The future of solar power is now (and it has Solvay's name on it)

To meet its ambitious objectives in terms of carbon



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2 | REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS INTENSITY

Reducing by 40% our greenhouse gas intensity



## Green certificates galore

So, what is Solvay's involvement here? The company will purchase 100% of the Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) produced by the solar farm over the course of the next 15 years. Such a commitment from the early stages of the project contributed to making it a reality, thus increasing renewable power production in a region where Solvay has a significant footprint.

RECs are a concept that bears explaining. The main thing a solar plant produces is obviously megawatt hours of electricity; but it also generates environmental benefits for producing them from clean, renewable energy. These environmental attributes, duly certified by an independent third party, become Renewable Energy Certificates, which can be purchased by a different customer than the one who buys the electricity itself.

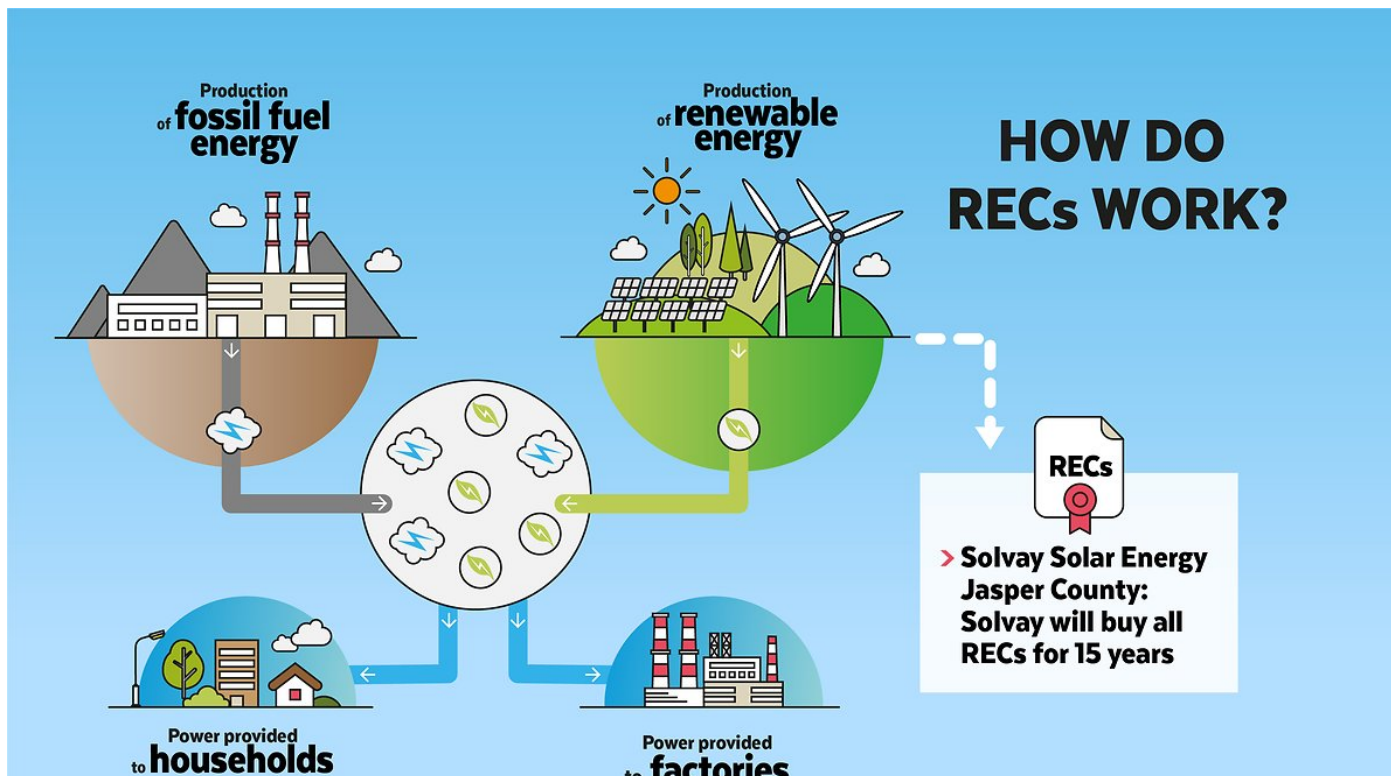
In South Carolina, a regulated energy market, the two local utilities are solely entitled to purchase power and sell it to end users, so Solvay didn't have the option of buying the solar farm's electrical output. Purchasing the RECs is a way of sourcing renewable power and increasing its share in the local energy mix – RECs are generally only valid within the electrical grid of the region or country of production: a factory in India couldn't purchase RECs from a wind farm in Denmark, for instance.



Taking care global: we introduce

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In addition to Solvay's own carbon reduction objectives, getting involved in this project is also a way to respond to growing customer demand for products manufactured with renewable energy. The pressure from the public on some of the Group's high profile customers acts as a positive force pushing in that direction. The end goal, as confirmed by Jean-Pierre Clamadieu, the CEO of Solvay, is "to exclusively use renewable energy for the provision of products to key customers". The Jasper County solar farm is a big step in that direction.

Last but not least, part of the project's area will be devoted to a 450-acre gopher tortoise preserve. Gopher tortoises are a local species of turtle, and a colony of over 100 of them, one of the largest in the state, will thus be permanently protected.

## SOLVAY SOLAR ENERGY JASPER COUNTY, SC IN A NUTSHELL

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