

Metro



Clemson sets fresh goals for clean energy

Campus aims to cut emissions, add green jobs, develop innovations

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CLEMSON — The Clemson University campus, where one of three smokestacks still spews coal — to the chagrin of today's environmentally conscious students — will become a net-zero carbon emissions university and a model for sustainability,

Clemson President James Barker announced Friday. His commitment to clean energy on campus is ground zero for a larger picture: Clemson's commitment is to create green jobs, prepare people to fill them, and generate innovations to help propel the state and nation into position as global energy leaders, Barker said.

From biomass research to a recently announced \$45 million federal energy grant to build a wind turbine drive train testing facility that will anchor a proposed International Center for Wind Energy Systems, Clemson has all of the pieces in place to tackle an issue that is "one of the great challenges of the 21st century," Barker said.

Sustainable energy is so important to students today that student government has added a sustain-

ability position to its leadership ranks, said Ryan Duane, Clemson's student body president.

"Energy is interwoven with the nation's economic, environmental and national security interests and affects every citizen on a daily basis. The search for alternative, renewable and cleaner sources of energy also promises to stimulate scientific research and create jobs. It is not only appropriate for Clemson to be involved in the develop-

ment of a green economy for South Carolina, it is mandatory," Barker said.

The initiative will utilize research from across the campus, said John Kelly, Clemson's vice president for public service and agriculture and director of the Clemson University Restoration Institute, who envisions advanced materials and fiber optics research helping to innovate advances such as lighter wind turbine blades equipped with sensors that enable

"smart" blades to make the best use of current wind conditions.

A strategic plan Barker outlined for university trustees Friday was born in part from discussions at recent energy summits with U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu and Jeffrey Immelt, chief executive officer at General Electric.

Clemson will provide the intellectual capital and work force for a green

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economy, drive energy technology innovation and transfer it to the marketplace and begin the major, long-term campus sustainability initiative, Barker said.

The campus initiative, to be launched this summer, will include a comprehensive system of renewable

energy production, efficient distribution and conservation that will eliminate the use of coal; offer research and educational opportunities for faculty and students; and provide partners with innovative solutions, technology testing and demonstration sites for pilot programs.

The benefits, Barker said, "will continue for generations to come."