



Charleston County News Release

Release Number: 3109

Date: May 10, 2010

Charleston County's "Living Green" Episode – *Water Quality and Marine Recreation*

U.S. EPA Grant funds Charleston County's pollution-reducing education programs

Viewers can watch the next episode of "Living Green," [Charleston County Government's](#) 30-minute green lifestyle TV show, during June. The show airs on channels WTAT Fox 24 and My TV Charleston each month.

Did you know that designated Green Marinas offer free pump-out services for boaters? Have you ever thought about what to do with your fishing line after a long boating trip? This month, the "Living Green" topic is "Water Quality and Marine Recreation," and features interviews with experts on how you can participate in the [Clean Vessel Act Program](#), utilize Green Marinas, recycle monofilament fishing line, and learn more from local groups who test the waterways for harmful chemicals.

Featured guests in this episode of "Living Green":

- Andy Lassiter, MES Graduate, Former Intern for Charleston Waterkeeper
 - Is the copper paint on your boat's hull polluting Charleston's waters?
- Cyrus Buffum, Executive Director, Charleston Waterkeeper
 - Results on the copper-based paint test
- Jen Jones, Masters of Environmental Studies Student Association, S.C. Oyster Restoration and Enhancement Program (SCORE) volunteer
 - Oysters: steamed or raw? SCORE tests our local water's oyster habitats.
- Scott Meister, Clean Vessel Act Coordinator, S.C. Department of Natural Resources
 - Green Marinas, responsible fueling, recycling fishing line, and sewage pump-out stations
- Marty Morganello, Surfrider Foundation, Charleston Chapter
 - Beach Sweeps and Mutt Mitts (pet waste disposal)

This "Living Green" episode is scheduled to air:

DATE	TIME/STATION
Saturdays in June	9-9:30 a.m. on WTAT FOX 24 (Comcast channel 6)
Saturdays in June	11-11:30 a.m. on MyTV Charleston, WMMP (Comcast channel 13)

To post an environmental question or ideas for a future episode of 'Living Green,' email carecommunityforum@gmail.com or search for CARE Community Forum on Facebook.

Visit the EPA CARE Web site at www.epa.gov/care or Charleston County's web site <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/Departments/BuildingServices/care.htm> to learn more about the CARE program.

The show is funded through a \$236,498 [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) [Community Action for a Renewed Environment \(CARE\) grant](#) given for Charleston County's continuing

participation in its [Project Impact Partnership Program](#), which aims to reduce local air and water pollution through public education programs.

“The TV show is part of an extensive educational campaign that we have taken on in order to provide information and assistance to our citizens on ways to reduce pollution and improve our air and water quality in order to protect the environment for future generations,” said Carl Simmons, Charleston County’s Building Inspections Director who oversees the County’s Project Impact program.

Guests and panelists appear on the show, including experts and scientists on the local, state and national level.

SIDEBAR: Background information on EPA’s CARE Grant and Charleston County’s Project Impact

- EPA’s award is part of EPA’s Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program, a community-based, community-driven program that builds partnerships to help the public understand and reduce toxic risks from numerous sources.
- Since the program was established five years ago, CARE has provided more than \$7.75 million to over 75 communities nationwide. The Charleston County CARE project is one of just five awarded in the southeast region.
- The Charleston County’s Project Impact Partnership program was formed in 1999 with the help of a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant. There are now 172 local partnership members who focus on making the Charleston County communities more disaster resistant, including undertaking environmental improvement endeavors.
- Project partners previously conducted the Charleston Region Toxics Risk Assessment and identified particulate air pollution and ground level ozone as priority air toxics risks, and fecal coliform bacteria, petroleum product releases and trace metals as priority water pollutants in the Charleston County area. Through the CARE project, project partners aim to heighten local residents’ awareness of these air and water pollution sources and encourage actions that individuals can take to reduce pollution.
- Established in 2005, CARE is a competitive grant program that offers an innovative way for communities to organize and take action to reduce toxic pollution in their air, land and water. By joining forces, for-profit and non-profit organizations can work together to improve the environmental health of a community and its residents.

To schedule a presentation on environmental quality and pollution issues, local groups can contact [Charleston County Government’s Building Inspections Department](#) at (843) 202-6940.