



A Project of the
Conservation Voters of South Carolina Education Fund
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Talking Points

Building Communities of Choice not Chance

CoastMatters is committed sustainable development and conserving the natural heritage and resources that have made Georgetown and Horry two of the most attractive and fastest growing counties in the state. Great communities are communities of choice not chance. Our communities can take action immediately by...

Conserving Land

- South Carolina is converting land to development at three times the rate of population growth. We must plan for and manage this growth.
- Over 200 acres of land have been converted every day from farming and forestry to urban and suburban uses.
- Local governments should consider tools like bond referendums to promote land conservation.
- Public-private partnerships can be a powerful tool to promote land conservation and incorporate more open/green space in the community.
- South Carolina's communities should not be stripped of their ability to protect their natural and historically significant properties due to regulatory takings.
- Local government should request that all proposals and recommendations from the Eminent Domain Study Committee are in line with effective land use planning in South Carolina.
- Communities should work closely with Local Land Trusts to find creative ways to conserve land.

Conserving Water

- In 2006, all 24 major rivers in South Carolina were listed in the Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) registry of impaired waters – One third of South Carolina's rivers are unfit for recreational use.
- Create a "Water for the Future Fund" to protect watersheds and streamside buffers and to correct infrastructure deficiencies and failing septic systems that degrade water quality.
- Set rigorous stormwater quality standards and allow developers to determine how best to meet those standards.
- Provide incentives to developers to reduce the amount of runoff produced by new construction.
- Encourage the General Assembly to pass water permitting legislation that ensures sufficient water flows that protect water quality and quantity for public use.