

South Carolina Expands U.S. “Battery Belt” with Historic \$3.5 Billion Project in Berkeley County

By Jenna-Ley Jamison, Berkeley County PIO

Berkeley County made history in 2022 with its landmark \$3.5 billion investment announcement with battery manufacturer Redwood Materials.

“This (announcement) will take us this year to \$10.1 billion in capital investments in South Carolina,” Gov. Henry McMaster said at a December ceremony at Santee Cooper’s Camp Hall Commerce Park in Ridgeville. “This is transformative and it’s going to open the door to the future of innovation and imagination in South Carolina; and I promise you our people are...ready for that, ready to meet that challenge.”

Headquartered in Carson City, Nevada, Redwood Materials is a producer of anode and cathode battery components for electric vehicles. Founded by Tesla’s former Chief Technology Officer and Co-Founder JB Straubel, the company plans to establish operations on

607 acres at Camp Hall and create 1,500 jobs.

“This is a phenomenal site for us to expand,” Straubel said at the event held with the Governor’s Office and the S.C. Department of Commerce. “Overall, we’re absolutely convinced this is the right place for us to be and this is a very smart decision for us to continue our investments here. ...This is really just the beginning.”

At its Berkeley County campus, Redwood Materials plans to manufacture battery components built from as much recycled material as possible; in turn, this material will go to help construct at least 1 million electric vehicles globally per year and create a circular supply chain for electric vehicles. This endeavor will launch a new, exciting chapter in the electrification of the future and help build a resilient supply chain for the nation’s “Battery Belt.”

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Artist's rendering of Santee Cooper's Camp Hall Commerce Park in Ridgeville



Berkeley County Supervisor and Council Chairman Johnny Cribb speaks at the economic development event hosted on Dec. 14 at Santee Cooper's Camp Hall Commerce Park in Ridgeville. The event, sponsored primarily by the S.C. Department of Commerce, Redwood Materials, the Governor's Office and Santee Cooper, was held to announce the Redwood Materials expansion at the commerce park.

(Photo at right) JB Straubel, Founder and CEO of Redwood Materials, presents a gift, the logo for Redwood Materials, to Gov. Henry McMaster.



Gov. Henry McMaster said the \$3.5 billion investment by Redwood Materials takes South Carolina to \$10.1 billion in capital investments in 2022.



Redwood officials pose for a photo with Berkeley County leaders and officials: *(Left to right)* Berkeley County Council Member Amy Stern; Ashley Teasdel, Deputy Secretary of the S.C. Department of Commerce (SCDOC); Berkeley County Council Vice Chairman Phillip Obie II and Council Member Tommy Newell; Alexis Georgeson, Vice President of Communications and Government Relations, Redwood Materials; Berkeley County Supervisor Johnny Cribb; JB Straubel, Redwood Materials Founder/CEO; Mandy Brawley, Director of the Global Business Development Division, SCDOC; Karen Manning, Chief Legal Counsel, SCDOC; Kevin Kassekert, COO, Redwood Materials; Kristen Lanier, Berkeley County Economic Development Director; and Alina Zagaytova, General Counsel, Redwood Materials

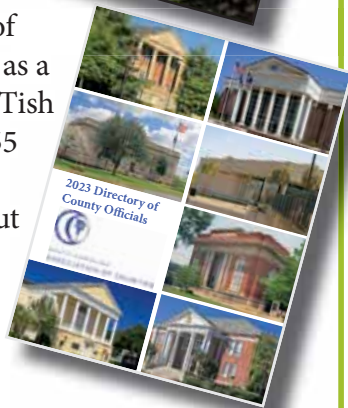
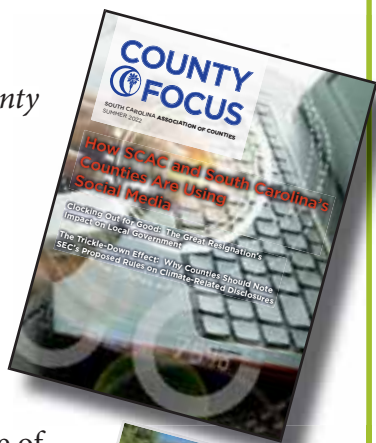
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The nation's battery belt has seen a recent expansion in the Palmetto State, not only with news of Redwood Materials but also Envision AESC—a Japanese electric vehicle battery technology company, which is creating 1,100 jobs in Florence County through the construction of a battery cell giga-factory."

Redwood Materials works with multiple partners—that have existing operations across the United States—to produce battery components by reclaiming and recycling end-of-life batteries and production scrap. These partners include Volvo, Envision AESC, Proterra, Panasonic, Volkswagen, and Audi. Redwood plans to begin operations at Camp Hall later this year.

By building a world-class workforce, Redwood officials believe this new site will drive down consumer costs, all the while focusing on carrying out the company's goals of sustainability, clean energy, and emissions reduction.

This historic project for both the county and state also will establish jobs that will pay well over Berkeley County's average wage and bring in significant tax revenue to fund critical infrastructure projects. Based on the county's current average assessed home value, the county's tax collections from Redwood Materials are expected to generate tax revenue equivalent to 7,500 homes, said Berkeley County Supervisor Johnny Cribb.

"We have been fortunate to land significant industrial projects that have provided both good jobs and the opportunity to keep our county property tax rate the lowest in the state," Cribb said. "This project, and specifically this company, will generate enough funds to complete the widening of Hwy. 176 approximately seven years faster and provide significant revenue for both the school district and county to provide necessary services."

For example, the revenue from Redwood throughout the fee agreement will allow the school district to hire as many as 88 new teachers and the county to hire as many as 44 additional sheriff's deputies/EMTs, he explained.

"We're excited about the employment opportunities this project will present and the increased ability to mitigate the challenges we face in providing services and infrastructure," Cribb said.

Since 2015, Camp Hall Commerce Park has been a gamechanger for Berkeley County's industrial sector, state commerce and international trade. The site is infrastructure ready and with nearby access to the ports, offers global accessibility. From Volvo's decision to set up operations at the site in 2015 to now Redwood Materials and so many other quality companies over the years, Camp Hall is a model example of what the next generation commerce park should be. It's a true testament to how strong local, state and community partnerships can lead to successful endeavors—and in this case, manufacturing space to revolutionize the future.

"We're excited about looking to the future with this plant, this investment, this campus," said Santee Cooper Board Director Stephen Mudge. "It's a unique commerce park that's recognized nationally."

For more information about Redwood Materials or to apply for a job at the Camp Hall site, visit redwoodmaterials.com. 