

About the South Carolina Energy Office

The Energy Office serves as the main energy-planning organization for South Carolina. The goal of the Energy Office is to advance South Carolina's energy strategy and policy through education and outreach.

The Energy Office promotes the efficient use of all energy sources. In addition, the Energy Office encourages energy efficiency,

renewable energy, and clean transportation through a broad range of initiatives that include:

- Developing the State Energy Plan
- Providing Technical Assistance
- Offering Financial Assistance
- Conducting Education and Outreach
- Maintaining an Energy Data Resource



The US Department of Energy's (USDOE) State Energy Program provides funding and technical assistance to enhance energy security, advance state-led energy initiatives, and maximize the benefits of decreasing energy waste.



The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) represents consumers of investor-owned utilities in South Carolina before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC). The PSC is the state agency that sets utilities' rates. The ORS must look at the impact to the consumer and utilities' continued investment in reliable and high-quality services

Education & Outreach

Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

State, Regional, and National Collaboration

The Energy Office works with organizations to organize events, provide technical assistance, and share information.

Energy Education

To promote energy education in schools, the Energy Office provides lesson plans and other resources for K-12 classrooms and teachers. The Energy Office also collaborates with organizations on events and workshops for educators.

Public Entity Energy Reduction

State agencies, public school districts, and public colleges and universities are required to develop energy conservation plans and reduce their energy consumption. In 2021, the Energy Office provided recognition for one entity that met this goal: Spartanburg School District 7

Reports & Publications

The monthly *Energy Connection* newsletter with a total number of **2,622** subscribers.

2021 Events	
SC Chapter of American Planning Association 2021 Winter Planning Conference	Feb. 17
SCCAP and SCSHSA Statewide Virtual Spring Training Conference	Mar. 30 – Apr. 2
ASCEM Spring Conference	May 25 – 27
Take Action SC Virtual Workshop	July 27
SC Energy in Schools Workshop for Educators and Facilities Professionals	July 27 – 28
SC Wind Energy Workshop	Aug. 18
STRIDE Collaborative Virtual Partners Meeting	Sept. 7 – 23
Energy Action Month	Oct. 1 – 31
ASCEM Fall Conference	Oct. 5 – 7
Gullah Geechee Environmental & Energy Conference	Oct. 16
Southeast Energy Insecurity Stakeholder Initiative Final Recommendations Workshop	Dec. 7
SC Clean Energy Conference and Southeast Energy Law Seminar	Dec. 8 - 10
2021 Training	
ASHRAE Course: Evaluating Your HVAC System's Readiness to Mitigate the Spread of SARS-COV-2	Mar. 11
ASHRAE Course: Commercial Building Energy Audits	Apr. 28-29
Boiler Efficiency Institute Boiler Course	May 11-12
Accredited Commercial Energy Manager Course	Nov. 15-19



Education & Outreach

Clean Transportation

Palmetto Clean Fuels

The Energy Office administers the Palmetto Clean Fuels, a USDOE Clean Cities coalition, to promote alternative fuels and clean transportation.

State Parks EV Charging Stations

The Energy Office partnered with the SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism to purchase and install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at three state parks using funding from the USDOE's State Energy Program.

Plug in SC Incentive Program

The Plug in SC Incentive Program enables qualifying participants to obtain standardized EV signage so that charging stations are easily identifiable.

Reports & Publications

- *Annual Alternative Fuel and Petroleum Reduction Report*
- Monthly *Hubcap* newsletter with a total of 1613 subscribers

2021 Events	
Greenville Transit Authority Sustainability Workshop	Jan. 12
SC Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Initiative Workshops	Feb. 17 Oct. 28
Upstate Mobility Night at the Greenville Drive	Aug. 26
Southeast Governmental Fleet Managers Association Annual Meeting & Equipment Show	Sept. 12-15
SCADA Be in Charge EV Conference	Oct. 14
2021 Training	
TASC Annual Training Event, Expo & Bus Rodeo	Mar. 4-7
Renewable Fuels Association Ethanol Safety Seminars	Jun. 7-11



Financial Assistance

AT A GLANCE

Energy Savings (kBTU)
6,338,399

Energy Cost Savings
\$171,291

GHGs Reduced
(metric tons of CO₂e)
1,291

2 ConserFund Loans

8 Mini-grants

TAX CREDIT & INCENTIVES

The Energy Office promotes incentives and verifies state tax credits to help make clean and efficient energy choices available to South Carolinians.

3,504 energy efficiency labels distributed

\$76,500 of Energy Star manufactured home tax credits

\$1,724,888.33 of transportation tax credits/incentives



The Energy Office offers several financing options for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation initiatives. These include low-interest loans, grants, tax incentives, and information on utility incentives. A nine-member Energy Advisory Council reviews and makes recommendations to the ORS Executive Director on awards. The ORS Executive Director makes the final award determinations.

ConserFund

Financing type: Loan

Eligible applicants: State agencies, public school districts, public colleges or universities, local governments, and 501(c)(3) organizations

Maximum award value: \$500,000 per state fiscal year

Laurens School District 55: \$717,923 LED lighting in four facilities

Williamsburg County: \$319,067.34 LED lighting in six facilities LED lighting in nine facilities, re-roof of two facilities

Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan (EERL)

Administered by the Business Development Council (BDC).

Financing type: Loan

Eligible applicants: Business and industry (utilities, 501(c)(3) organizations, and government entities may be eligible under certain circumstances)

Maximum award value: \$1,000,000

Mini-Grants

Financing type: Grant

Eligible applicants: State agencies, local governments, public school districts, public colleges or universities, and 501(c)(3) organizations

Maximum award value: \$5,000-\$10,000

Beaufort County: \$10,000
Electric utility task vehicle

City of Rock Hill: \$3,815.62
Two level 2 electric vehicle charging stations

Florence School District 3: \$10,000
Exterior LED upgrade at 8 schools

Lugoff Fire Department: \$10,000
LED upgrade at headquarters station

Montessori School of Columbia: \$10,000
Solar photovoltaic system on Learning Lab

SC Department of Agriculture – Pee Dee Farmer’s Market: \$7,358.72
Two level 2 electric vehicle charging stations

SC Department of Education - Trident Technical College: \$10,000
LED upgrade in welding lab

Town of Clover: \$4,557.69
LED upgrade at Clover Community Center

Technical Assistance

The Energy Office offers free energy assessments to state and local governments and other entities to help identify cost-effective energy conservation measures.

- Zion Hill Baptist Church – Greenville, SC
- Gethsemane Baptist Church – Greenville, SC

Energy Data Resources

The Energy Office website hosts a central resource for South Carolina-specific data and information on the electric, natural gas, renewables, and transportation sectors. The website features charts, GIS maps, and data sets that can be used to see utility-specific customer counts, territory maps, renewable energy trends, revenue, and transportation fuel consumption.

State Energy Plan

The State Energy Plan is a dynamic blueprint for energy planning that evolves as the state's needs evolve.

The 2016 Energy in Action Plan provided stakeholder driven, energy policy recommendations. These recommendations successfully resulted in various reports, workshops, trainings, an Integrated Resource Plan best practices guide, and useful tools like EnergySaver.SC.GOV. Additionally, following the recommendation that state agencies should "Lead by Example," the Energy Office, using federal funding, became the first state agency to purchase an electric vehicle as a case study to encourage further adoption of alternative fuel vehicles in the state's fleet.

The 2020 [Energy Efficiency Roadmap \(EE Roadmap\)](#) identified and updated recommendations to help stakeholders and citizens seize energy efficiency opportunities within the state. Building upon the 2016 Energy Plan, the Energy Office convened over 80 stakeholders, from throughout the state, to review prior energy efficiency recommendations, reevaluate them according to current priorities, and identify new opportunities. The EE Roadmap reflected updated stakeholder recommendations to advance energy efficiency in South Carolina. Progress from the EE Roadmap recommendations yielded work with a state research institution to develop a market study for establishing a state green bank to provide funding for energy projects. A report of this green bank market study research is expected in late 2022. The Energy Office continues development of a "one-stop-shop" for low-income residents to apply for weatherization and home rehabilitation services. As well as continued efforts to frame a home energy labeling program.

Most recently, the Energy Office concluded a robust Electric Vehicle (EV) Stakeholder Initiative. Over 350 stakeholders from over 95 organizations and entities caucused in five working groups to evaluate challenges and opportunities to advancing EV and EV infrastructure across South Carolina. Recommendations from this extensive collaboration were released by the Energy Office on September 21, 2022.

Recommendations resulting from the 2016 Energy in Action Plan, the EE Roadmap, and the EV Stakeholder Initiative address changes in South Carolina's energy landscape. Some stakeholder recommendations may only be achieved through legislative or regulatory changes. However, the Energy Office continues its work to balance promoting environmental quality, energy efficiency and conservation efforts with the need to minimize the cost of energy for our citizens. The implementation of recent federal legislation is expected to provide funding to reduce the challenge of limited resources and allow the Energy Office to enhance its efforts to educate South Carolinians on energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean transportation.

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