ENERGY SPOTLIGHT

ENERGY OFFICE

2019 Mini-Grant Program provided funding for five high-impact demonstration projects

The Energy Office, a department of the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, awards mini-grants each year to fund several high-impact demonstration projects in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation. Applications for this highly competitive grant program are judged based on several factors including their expected energy savings and payback period, visibility of the project, and educational and/or demonstrational value. Funding for the Mini-Grant Program is provided through the US Department of Energy.

The Energy Office strives to direct funding toward more rural areas and organizations to provide additional support to complete projects like these. In addition to saving money and reducing energy consumption, Mini-Grant Program projects include a focus on educating the public.

2019 Mini-Grant Projects

With 2019 funding, the Energy Office awarded mini-grants to the Abbeville School District, Central Midlands Council of Governments (Central Midlands COG), City of Landrum, Spartanburg Community College, and Sustaining Way. Each project had its own unique project scope with different barriers to overcome.

Savings

Collectively, the five projects are anticipated to save $36,658 annually in energy costs and 730 million MMBTUs of energy. Over the expected lifetime of the installed equipment, these projects are anticipated to save $451,619 and over 9,800 MMBTUs of energy. These energy savings are equivalent to the electricity used to power 260 homes for a year. These energy savings also result in an estimated 2,012 metric tons of greenhouse gases abated over the lifetime of the projects, equivalent to emissions from 435 passenger vehicles driven for one year.

2019 Mini-Grant Recipients

- **Abbeville School District**
- **Central Midlands Council of Governments**
- **City of Landrum**
- **Spartanburg Community College**
- **Sustaining Way**

Anticipated Lifetime Savings

- **$451,619**
- **Over 9,800 MMBTUs of energy, equivalent to the electricity used to power 260 homes for a year**

More information on the Mini-Grant Program is available at: www.ENERGY.SC.GOV/incentives/grants.

Abbeville School District

Abbeville School District

Abbeville School District replaced various types of linear fluorescent fixtures with light-emitting diode (LED) flat panels, high bays, and strip fixtures at the career center. Abbeville School District was able to incorporate the lighting retrofit project into their construction class.

Central Midlands COG

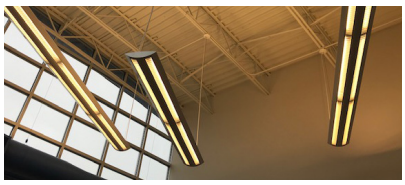
Central Midlands COG

Central Midlands COG installed LED flat panels to replace outdated and less efficient linear fluorescent fixtures at its office in Columbia. The COG presented the project to their 51-member board of directors, which includes many elected officials, sharing the story of this successful project.

City of Landrum

City of Landrum

The City of Landrum installed a Level 2 electric vehicle charging station in the heart of its downtown business district. The charging station includes electronic monitoring so the city can track usage. The City of Landrum issued a press release, and the article was picked up by the Associated Press, which led to its widespread publication.



Spartanburg Community College

Spartanburg Community College

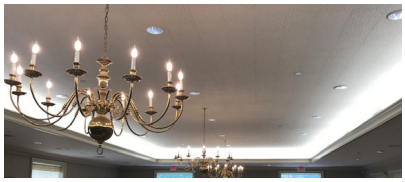
Spartanburg Community College installed LED tubes to replace outdated and less efficient linear fluorescent lamps within the existing fixtures at both the Spartanburg and Union campuses. Spartanburg Community College promoted the project to students and faculty via a press release.

Forest Lake Presbyterian Church

Sustaining Way

Sustaining Way used funding to support South Carolina Interfaith Power & Light, an initiative that includes a statewide congregational energy efficiency challenge program, “Cool Congregations.” Subgrants were awarded to three different churches:

Forest Lake Presbyterian Church in Columbia installed a variety of LEDs including recessed cans, screw-in bulbs, and specialized parabolic aluminized reflector (PAR) fixtures. The church shared their project with Green Congregations and Green Faith organizations that encourage congregations to adopt sustainable practices and informed congregants of the project in the weekly sermon during their annual Earth Sunday event.



St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church

St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church in Aiken replaced linear fluorescent lamps with LED tubes in various parts of the church. The church shared information about the project via congregational announcements and the church newsletter.

Trinity Worldwide Ministries

Trinity Worldwide Ministries in Charleston installed screw-in LED bulbs and also completed a variety of upgrades to reduce their HVAC energy usage. The upgrades included caulking and spray foam to seal air penetrations, sealing the crawl space, and installing smart thermostats. The church promoted the project via social media and held an “energy workshop” at the facility.

1401 Main Street
Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 737- 0800