



The Energy Connection

State Budget and Control Board

Summer 2006

“Energy Tonight” Nominated for Emmy

“Energy Tonight,” an environmental education program produced by Fisher Communications of Columbia for the S.C. Energy Office (SCEO), has been nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Youth Television Programming by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Winners will be announced on June 17.

“Energy Tonight” is a fun, fast-paced look at energy in South Carolina. Viewers learn about radioactive waste disposal in our state, how landfill gas is being used to manufacture luxury cars and follow a family through a home energy makeover. “Energy Tonight” is modeled after “Entertainment Tonight,” the “most watched news entertainment show in the world.”

“It is important to note that ‘Energy Tonight’ was created and developed in partnership with many others,” said Reneé Daggerhart, public information coordinator of the SCEO. Partners who made “Energy Tonight” possible include the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control

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State Legislature Hits Home Runs for Renewable Energy

Ethanol, biodiesel, solar energy and landfill gas all gained substantial boosts as renewable energy scored big in the 2006 legislative year, the most productive year for renewable energy in South Carolina in over 20 years.

Provisions of House Bill 4810 (Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Bill) and Senate Bill 1245 provide substantial incentives for renewable transportation fuels, including:

- (1) \$300 sales tax rebates for each purchase of an E85 (85% ethanol, 15% gasoline) flex-fuel vehicle;
- (2) Income tax credits for production of ethanol and biodiesel fuel;
- (3) Income tax credits for purchase of equipment to produce ethanol and biodiesel fuel;
- (4) Income tax credits for purchase of equipment for fueling vehicles with ethanol and biodiesel fuel;
- (5) Five cents per gallon retailer rebates for sales of E85 and B20 (20% biodiesel, 80% diesel) fuel.

The bills also provide tax incentives for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, plug-in hybrid vehicles, homeowner purchase of solar heating and cooling systems, and industrial purchase of equipment to utilize energy from landfill gas.

Finally, H. 4810 creates a Strategic and Tactical Research on Energy Independence Commission (STREIC) to make recommendations on existing and potential renewable energy legislation aimed at reducing dependence on petroleum and enhancing economic development. The seven-member commission will consist of four legislative appointees, one Governor’s appointee, Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers, and Dr. Nick Rigas, Director of the South Carolina Institute for Energy Studies.

“South Carolinians owe their legislators a big vote of thanks for their foresight in taking landmark actions having the three-fold benefits of improving our air quality, stimulating our state’s economy, and reducing our vulnerability to terrorists, unstable governments and natural disasters,” said South Carolina Energy Office Director John Clark.

In the early 1980s, the legislature enacted laws providing incentives for production of ethanol fuel and for purchase of solar equipment, but those laws were allowed to lapse.

For more information about the new legislation, please visit www.energy.sc.gov or www.scstatehouse.net.

Notes from the Director

John E. Clark



The economic and environmental advantages of biofuels and electric hybrid vehicles are important and sufficient in and of themselves to justify a major effort to develop homegrown fuels and electric hybrids. But there is another advantage that transcends all others: national security and preservation of the American way of life.

Here are the facts:

- The U.S. has less than 5 percent of the world's population and gobbles up 25 percent of the oil produced in the world.
- The U.S. imports almost 65 percent of its oil supplies.
- The U.S. has 2 percent of the world's known oil reserves.
- The nine largest conventional oil reserves are located in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Venezuela, Russia, Libya and Nigeria. Not only is supply precarious, but paying high prices for oil from most of these countries is tantamount to financing terrorists and other enemies.
- Tapping the oil in the Alaskan Arctic Wildlife Refuge is no solution: after a dozen years of development, it would reduce foreign dependence by less than three percent, and have no significant effect on the cost of oil.
- If hydrogen ever provides a low-cost transportation fuel alternative, that solution is two decades away.
- There is, however, a cost-effective solution available right now, with today's technology.
 - Manufacture most of our vehicles to be capable of operating on 85 percent ethanol/15 percent gasoline or 85 percent biodiesel/15 percent diesel.
 - Provide most of our automobiles with plug-in hybrid capability, allowing them to be recharged at home overnight and capable of operating for their first 30 miles each day using only electricity. (The average American vehicle travels only 20 miles per day.)
 - These two simple market transformations alone would reduce American oil consumption by 70-85 percent, and drive down the price of oil that we still purchase.
 - While we're at it, we should eliminate the 54-cents per gallon tariff we impose on Brazilian-produced ethanol. Oil from Venezuela and Iran is not taxed. But ethanol from Brazil is taxed. Go figure.

They say that where there is a will, there is a way. In this case, there is a way. Do we have the will?

"Energy Tonight"...

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Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Energy, Ameresco, and the Palmetto Landfill.

The nomination of "Energy Tonight" follows the success of "Earth Today", which won an Emmy Award in the same category in 2004. "Earth Today" was produced by Fisher Communications for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. Partners included the SCEO, S.C. Educational and Instructional Television, S.C. Department of Education, PalmettoPride, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and International Paper.

For a copy of "Energy Tonight," contact Renéé Daggerhart at rdaggerhart@energy.sc.gov or 1-800-851-8899.

Biomass Lesson Plans "Best in the Business"

The South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO) and South Carolina Ag in the Classroom received a Certificate of Merit as part of the 2006 "Best in the Business" awards from the South Carolina Society of Association Executives (SCSAE). The joint project "Biomass: Lesson Plans on Alternative Fuels" won in the Program Innovation section of the Education award category. This category "recognizes outstanding programs/conventions for members or the general public on issues relevant to the organization's mission." The biomass lesson plans were developed and produced by the SCEO and the South Carolina Farm Bureau through a grant provided by the U. S. Department of Energy's Special Projects Program.

Ag in the Classroom offers free grade-specific lesson plans and year-round in-service workshops to South Carolina teachers, schools and school districts. For more information or to schedule an in-service workshop, call Ag in the Classroom Director Maria Samot at 1-800-628-4571, ext. 4409. The lessons can also be downloaded from www.agclassroom.org/sc.

SCSAE is an organization of chief executive officers and professional staff who manage a variety of trade, professional and nonprofit associations as well as companies that provide products and services to the association community.

Become CEM® Certified

When you've earned the right to put the initials "CEM" behind your name, you've distinguished yourself among energy management professionals. Simply put, the designation CEM®, which stands for Certified Energy Manager, recognizes individuals who have demonstrated high levels of experience, competence, proficiency, and ethical fitness in the energy management profession. By attaining the status of CEM®, one joins an elite group of 6,000 professionals serving industry, business and government throughout the world.

The Association of South Carolina Energy Managers (ASCEM) and the South Carolina Energy Office will hold CEM® training classes on June 14, June 21, June 28, July 5 and July 12 to prepare qualified energy managers for the CEM certification examination on July 19. The training will be held at the SC Department of Corrections Training Academy. For information on the training, please contact Julia Parris at jparris@energy.sc.gov, (803) 737-8030 or 1-800-851-8899.

All individuals taking the CEM® training classes must meet the eligibility requirements of the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) and be a member of ASCEM. Class sized is limited, so register now with Leslie Walcker, Certification Director, at leslie@aeecenter.org, or call (770) 447-5083 ext. 218. For more information about CEM®, please go to www.aeecenter.org/certification/CEMpage.htm.

Higher Education Springs Forward with ConserFund

This spring Winthrop University closed its third low-cost energy loan with the South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO) ConserFund Loan Program. The SCEO approved the \$500,000 Winthrop loan in March for a boiler replacement project that will save the University over \$123,000 annually. The resulting energy efficiency improvements will remove and replace an existing 28,000 pound steam/hour boiler with a 12 megawatt 40,000 pound steam/hour 13.2 KV electrode boiler at Winthrop's central energy plant in Rock Hill. "Winthrop must vent thousands of pounds of steam for several months each year and waste large amounts of natural gas because their present boilers cannot be turned down," says State Engineer Bill Charlwood. "The installation of the small electrode boiler is a win-win situation."

The SCEO has committed a total of over \$900,000 so far this fiscal year, saving state taxpayers over \$200,000 annually.

For more information on the ConserFund loan program, contact Michael Hughes of the SCEO at mhughes@energy.sc.gov or (803) 737-8030 or 1-800-851-8899.

Solar Heated Pool Makes a Splash at USC-Aiken

The University of South Carolina at Aiken recently installed a solar water heating system for its Natatorium indoor pool. Sixty-four solar modules were installed on the roof of the Natatorium.

USC-Aiken leveraged a \$25,000 grant from the South Carolina Energy Office as seed money for the \$97,000 project. The institution anticipates saving over \$19,000 a year from the solar water heating system by avoiding natural gas purchases. The project payback time will be about 3.5 years.

The Natatorium solar water heating system was designed by Swygert and Associates in Columbia and installed by MSI Construction Company in West Columbia and Tablerock Technologies in Pickens. The state-of-the-art solar water heating system used at the Natatorium is only the second application of its kind in South Carolina.

Solar water heaters are the most efficient way to use solar power and the most cost effective way to heat a pool. Most solar water heating systems recover initial investment within a few years, and are competitive with traditional heating methods, particularly with recent energy price increases. The price range of solar water heaters for residential-sized pools is \$1,000-\$4,000, but costs for commercial-sized pools depend on the size and location. In many outdoor pools, solar water heaters double the swimming season in South Carolina and on average keep the pool at a comfortable 86°F.



For more information about solar energy, including solar water heating systems for pools, check out www.energy.sc.gov or contact Richard Horton at (803) 737-8034 or rhorton@energy.sc.gov.

South Carolina Manufacturers Save Energy Through SCMEP*

The South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP) has been working with the U.S. Department of Energy and the South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO) for the last six years in the Industries of the Future (IOF) Program. SCMEP has become a champion for effective and efficient energy use in manufacturing facilities across South Carolina.

SCMEP Energy Specialist Charles Rampey has crisscrossed the state, working with manufacturers in the chemicals, metal casting, forest products, and mining industries to help them increase energy efficiency, improve environmental performance, and increase productivity in their facilities.

As part of the grant-funded program, SCMEP provides energy audits and competitiveness assessments to determine manufacturers' shortcomings and needs, and its manufacturing specialists implement the appropriate energy solutions.

"So far, we have been able to positively impact South Carolina's economy by saving manufacturers more than

\$3 million annually by reducing energy consumption by 257 billion Btus," says John Irion, SCMEP's president.

In addition, SCMEP has:

- Completed more than 460 competitiveness assessments of South Carolina facilities;
- Conducted four energy-related training sessions;
- Conducted 40 in-depth energy assessments and audits; and
- Implemented more than 45 energy projects at manufacturing facilities.

SCMEP has also secured another round of federal grant funding through the SCEO, enabling the organization to spearhead an education effort to teach best energy practices to the state's largest industrial users.

For more information, contact Charles Rampey at (803) 754-2521 or crampey@sc.rr.com.

*This article adapted with permission from *The Competitive Edge*, Fall 2005

Upcoming Energizing Events

South Carolina Solar Council – June 12, 2006

Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC

This meeting of the SC Solar Council is open to all interested parties. The meeting will include a tour of the new Santee Cooper Solar Pavilions and a presentation by Santee Cooper. For information, contact Sonny DuBose at sdubose@energy.sc.gov, (803) 737-8030 or 1-800-851-8899.



The Santee Cooper Solar Pavilions under construction at Coastal Carolina.

"Take Action Today" – June 21, 2006

Seawells, Columbia, SC

"Take Action Today" is a one-day, comprehensive environmental education workshop customized for South Carolina teachers. The workshop will focus on classroom lessons, updated with the most current environmental issues, and provide supplemental materials and tours. "Take Action Today" will increase attendees' understanding of environmental issues in their communities and enhance their classroom presentations.

"Take Action Today" is set for June 21, 2006. The event is free, but space is limited to 200 teachers. "Take Action Today" is replacing the previously-offered "Energy 2 Learn" workshop. For more information and a registration form, please go to www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/calendar.html.

Early Action Compact Summit - August 16 & 17, 2006

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, Columbia, SC

The Early Action Compact (EAC) Summit is an opportunity to showcase ideas and information among the various stakeholders involved in the EAC process, and will demonstrate the desire and interest of South Carolina's community to lead by example and achieve "Cleaner Air Sooner." Topics include innovative ideas for cleaner air, funding opportunities, land use planning, transportation alternatives, and saving money through energy efficiency. Visit the DHEC Website (www.scdhec.gov/baq/eacsummit) for updates and registration. For additional information, contact Melinda Mathias at mathiamc@dhec.sc.gov or (803) 898-3269.



Alternative Fuel Use Revs Up in South Carolina

In the summer of 2005, hurricanes Katrina and Rita wreaked havoc on the United States Gulf coast, causing widespread damage and severe fuel shortages felt throughout the nation. But, Katrina and Rita's dark storm clouds were not without silver lining: renewed interest in alternative fuels. Much is happening in South Carolina.



Ethanol is a renewable fuel made in the United States from corn and other grain products grown by American farmers. Use of ethanol, commonly sold in an 85 percent blend with gasoline known as E85, helps displace foreign sources of oil with fuel that is made here in the United States. E85 burns more cleanly and has a higher octane than regular gasoline, but can only be used in Flexible Fuel Vehicles (FFVs), which can run on both gasoline and E85. However, all gasoline-powered vehicles can run on E10, a blend of 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline. Thus, by fueling your car with E10 whenever it is available, you can do your part to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil even if you do not drive an FFV.

If your vehicle was made in 1999 or later, it may be able to run on E85. Visit www.e85fuel.com, and click on "E85 Vehicles" for a complete list of E85-compatible FFVs. You can also check on the fuel filler door to see if your vehicle is ethanol-capable. Just look for the term "ethanol" or "E85," which will be demarked along with the gasoline requirements listed there. There are over 20 FFV models currently available from manufacturers including Ford, GM, DaimlerChrysler, Mercedes and others. If you are interested in purchasing an FFV and would like more information on what types of FFVs are available, refer to the 2005 Purchasing Guide for Flexible Fuel Vehicles, which can also be found at www.e85fuel.com/pdf/2005_purchasing_guide.pdf. To reach the Guide from the homepage, click on "For Retailers," and then "Purchasing Guide."

South Carolina's Growing Ethanol Infrastructure

The SCEO and the Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition have facilitated many of the publicly-accessible E85 refueling stations around the state. There are currently about 34 public E85 stations in South Carolina, mostly located at interstate highway exits. In the last year, use of both E10 and E85 has grown dramatically across the state, displacing millions of gallons of imported gasoline fuel. In 2004, almost 500,000 gallons of E85-equivalent

were consumed statewide, and in 2005, usage of E85-equivalent mushroomed, with over 5.6 million gallons consumed.

Use of E85 by state government entities has grown markedly. Only six agencies used E85 in 2004, but grew to 25 agencies by 2005. State government FFVs can refuel at public-access E85 stations as well as the state vehicle refueling station at the Department of Health and Environmental Control facility located at 2600 Bull Street in Columbia.



Biodiesel is another alternative fuel getting a lot of attention as a cleaner burning alternative to diesel. It is usually sold in a blend known as "B20," which is 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent regular diesel fuel. One of biodiesel's most attractive qualities is that it can be used in any diesel engine without modification.

Biodiesel is made from soybean oil, waste restaurant grease (also called yellow grease) and animal fats, through a simple process called transesterification.

There are currently 14 stations around the state that offer biodiesel, and one more scheduled to open soon in Orangeburg.

Several state entities are using biodiesel fuel, including the shuttle buses at the University of South Carolina. The Department of Education is studying the economic feasibility of making biodiesel from school kitchen waste grease and mixing it with petroleum-based diesel to make B20, which would be used to fuel the state fleet of 5,000 school buses.

Furman University's students are already making their own environmentally-friendly biodiesel from waste cafeteria grease. The biodiesel they produce supplies about half the campus' diesel needs for its lawnmowers, backhoes and tractors. In addition to the positive environmental impact and learning opportunities they receive from producing biodiesel on campus, the students are able to sell the fuel at a slight markup to Furman's Services Department to raise money for their organization, Environmental Action Group (EAG).

The South Carolina Energy Office is sponsoring a study, due for completion in the fall, to determine the total

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E85 and Biodiesel Retail Locations in South Carolina

Columbia

Gervais Street Exxon – 1421 Gervais St., Columbia 
Pitt Stop #35 – 2020 Bluff Rd., I-77 Exit 5, Columbia 
Pitt Stop #40 – 4800 Forest Dr., I-77 Exit 12, Columbia 
Pitt Stop #28 – 595 Spears Creek Church Rd., I-20 Exit 82, Elgin 
Pitt Stop #13 – 7409 Broad River Rd., I-26 Exit 101, Irmo 
Pitt Stop #16 – 5019 Augusta Rd., I-20 Exit 58, Lexington 
Pitt Stop #42 – 1928 Airport Road, I-26 Exit 113, West Columbia 
Corner Pantry #101 – 1425 Bluff Rd., I-77 Exit 5, Columbia 
Spinx #149 – 1619 Decker Blvd., I-77 Exit 15, Columbia 
United Energy Distributors West – 2470 Fish Hatchery Rd., West Columbia 

Irmo C-Mart – 7353 Nusery Road, Columbia 

Upstate – Greenville

Spinx #138 – 1519 Whitehorse Rd., I-85 Exit 44B, Greenville 
Spinx #130 – 1510 Woodruff Rd., I-385 Exit 35, Greenville 
Spinx #179 – 2901 N. Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville 
Spinx #121 – 2497 S. Highway 14, I-85 Exit 56, Greer 
Spinx #166 – 100 W. Wade Hampton Blvd., Greer 
Spinx #189 – 3135 Brushy Creek Rd., Greer 
Spinx #190 – 2601 Locust Hill Rd., Taylors 
Spinx #165 – 5598 North Highway 14, Landrum 
Spinx #199 – 7252 Moorefield Memorial Highway, Liberty 
Spinx #178 – 2 Tigerville Rd., Travelers Rest 
Spinx #134 – 1301 Fairview Rd., Simpsonville 
Spinx #225 – 220 East Greer St., Honea Path 
Spinx #201 – 549 East Standing Springs Rd., I-385 Exit 30, Simpsonville 

Spinx #193 – 697 Fairview Rd., I-385 Exit 27, Simpsonville 
Spinx #148 – 2921 Greer Highway, Marietta 
Spinx #169 – 107 Charlotte Highway, Lyman 
Gasland USA #9 – 1121 Hyatt St., I-85 Exit 90, Gaffney 
Gasland USA #8 – 901 N. Mountain St., I-85 Exit 102, Blacksburg  OPENING SOON!

Florence

Breaker's #1 – 2074 West Evans St., Florence 

Aiken

United Energy Distributors #1 – 1046 Toolebeck Rd., Aiken 


Orangeburg

Henry's – 1969 Old Edisto Dr., Orangeburg 
 OPENING SOON!
Smith's 66 and Marine – 1692 Columbia Rd., Orangeburg 


Rock Hill

Fairway BP – 1010 Carolina Place Dr., I-77 Exit 85, Fort Mill 
Fort Mill Conoco – SC 160, Fort Mill  OPENING SOON!

Alternative Fuel Use... Continued from Page 5

available amount of waste commercial cooking grease and waste animal processing fat, along with the economics of building biodiesel production facilities using waste grease and fat as feedstock throughout the state.

Commercial Biodiesel Production in South Carolina

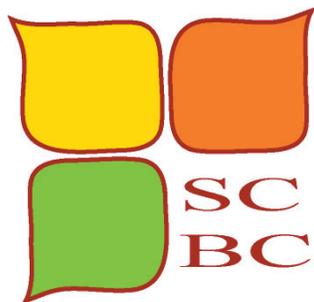
Carolina Biofuels, a division of the Taylors, South Carolina-based company Carolina Polymers, rolled out their first load of biodiesel fuel on March 14, 2006. Their manufacturing facilities are currently in full operation, and are expected to produce 10 million gallons of biodiesel fuel by the end of this summer, with production projected to grow to over 30 million gallons annually. A large percentage of the fuel produced at Carolina Biofuels will be sold to the Spinx Company, an upstate petroleum marketer committed to providing South Carolina's drivers with alternative fuels.

Carolina Biofuels supports South Carolina's economy by using locally-grown soybeans to make fuel, and as production ramps up, they will create between 20 and 30 jobs in the Taylors area. This local biodiesel production facility will increase availability of biodiesel in South Carolina and reduce its prices in the state by eliminating expensive transportation costs associated with importing it from other states.

SC Biomass Council Kicks Off Efforts to Increase Renewable Energy

On April 21, the South Carolina Biomass Council (SCBC) held its inaugural meeting at the Capitol Center in downtown Columbia. Assembled by the South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO) to increase biomass energy and products in South Carolina, nearly forty members and nine SCEO staff comprise the Council. The kick-off event was led by SCBC Chair, Nick Rigas, Director of the S.C. Institute for Energy Studies at Clemson, SCEO Consultant Joe James, the CEO of the Corporation for Economic Opportunity, and SCEO Director, John Clark.

The SCBC established five major committees addressing solid, liquid, and gaseous biomass fuels, public policy and incentives, and alternative biomass products. In addition to SCBC members, other interested individuals will serve on the committees.



The SCBC will work cooperatively with state legislators, biomass producers and users and other stakeholders to increase awareness and use of biomass energy. South Carolina currently imports 98 percent of its energy and could greatly benefit from producing much more of its own.

According to Joe James, “South Carolina’s economy, both rural and urban, its quality of life and the pocketbooks of its citizens can be enhanced by the creative and optimal usage of the state’s bountiful biomass resources. The newly formed South Carolina Biomass Council can help make our state among the nation’s biomass utilization leaders, particularly in a time of problematic energy prices and availability.”

Already, South Carolina produces biodiesel fuel from agricultural products, burns wood waste to produce steam, and collects methane from landfill gas, which is converted to energy by Santee Cooper. According to SCEO Director, John Clark, “The Biomass Council will fill information gaps related to biomass energy production beyond soydiesel and landfill gas. Today, only a tiny fraction of all energy generated in the state is renewable, and it could be far greater.”

The objective of the SCBC is to develop a long term strategy to make biomass energy a feasible large-scale

alternative. SCBC Chair, Nick Rigas, stated, “This Council will create a roadmap for biomass utilization in and around the state, because South Carolina needs to diversify its energy base. Bioenergy is one available option, but it will take strong state support, along with the encouragement of the SCBC, to entice investment in new biomass projects across South Carolina.”

Before the next scheduled SCBC meeting in September, the five committees will develop initial work plans. The Council will operate as long as needed to serve a major role in South Carolina’s renewable energy future. For more information about the South Carolina Biomass Council please visit www.energy.sc.gov or contact Mike Hughes at (803) 737-7177 or mhughes@energy.sc.gov.

South Carolina Energy Office Wins Prestigious Innovator Award

SC SAVE\$ (Schools and Agencies Verify Energy Dollars), a program developed by the South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO), has been selected as a winner of the 2006 Southern Growth Policies Board Innovator Award. SC SAVE\$ was selected as one of only fourteen Innovator Award winners from more than 200 nominees in the South for its commendable initiatives in technology and innovation.

SC SAVE\$ helps schools, colleges and state government agencies monitor and control energy costs. SC SAVE\$ helps participants examine and report their energy use with SchoolDude’s UtilityDirect system, a Web-based energy tracking and reporting tool.

“Using SC SAVE\$, the SCEO developed an energy consumption database, yielding historical trends and comparisons among organizations, building types and categories of organizations,” said Mitch Perkins, Director of State Energy Programs for the South Carolina Energy Office. “SC SAVE\$ also allowed us to develop an electronic communications network for the SCEO and participating organizations to readily exchange data, provide technical assistance and discuss issues.”

With the SchoolDude UtilityDirect system, multiple users are allowed real-time access to energy data, allowing problems to be corrected in a timely manner. Software updates are supplied automatically by SchoolDude, eliminating the hassles of software installation and upgrades.

“With nearly 2,000 clients, SchoolDude is the nation’s leading provider of Web-based operations management solutions designed exclusively for the unique needs of educational professionals. For more information about SchoolDude, visit www.schooldude.com.

SCEO Becomes Biomass Energy Information Hub

The South Carolina Energy Office has produced two new documents on biomass activities and availability in the state.

Biomass Energy Potential in South Carolina: a Conspectus of Relevant Information is a survey and digest of research and other information relevant to biomass energy production in South Carolina. The document is the first of its kind about South Carolina and will be continuously updated as new information becomes available. By next fall, for instance, the report will include current research projects sponsored by the South Carolina Energy Office that will fill information gaps about the feasibility of using animal manure and waste water sewage for methane production, and waste grease and animal fats for biodiesel production.

The *Conspectus* inventories information about all three major biomass fuel types: solid, gaseous, and liquid. Solid biomass fuels include waste wood, municipal solid waste and tires, construction debris, and agricultural wastes. Gaseous biomass fuels include methane production from animal wastes, human sewage, food service and processing byproducts, pulp and paper byproducts, and landfill gas. Liquid biomass fuels can be produced from crops such as corn and soybeans, waste grease, wood, and cotton and textile byproducts.

The *Conspectus* serves as a resource for the South Carolina Biomass Council, policy-makers, biomass users and producers, researchers, and other stakeholders. The full report is available online at www.energy.sc.gov.

South Carolina is already home to many biomass energy activities. The SCEO maintains summaries of known biomass energy activities in the state in an on-line report called *South Carolina Biomass Brief*, located at www.energy.sc.gov in the Sustainability and Renewable Energy category.

An example of biomass energy activities is the new biogasification plant at the University of South Carolina, which will burn wood waste to generate the majority of campus electrical needs. Another example in the report describes the Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition (PSCFC) initiative to increase the amount of ethanol and biodiesel used in the state. So far in FY2005-06, ethanol has displaced over 6.1 million gallons of conventional gasoline.

To suggest additional information for *South Carolina Biomass Brief*, please contact Michael Hughes at mhughes@energy.sc.gov.

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Editor Renee Daggerhart

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