



S.C. Energy Office Approves First ConserFund Loans

Two school districts and one municipality received approval in May for energy efficiency improvement loans from the South Carolina Energy Office totaling \$681,636.

Lexington County School District 2 is borrowing \$126,994 from the ConserFund to upgrade energy management and control systems at four schools, and to modify all energy management systems to achieve Y2K compliance. Estimated annual savings: \$34,000.

The Town of Ware Shoals will use a \$54,642 ConserFund loan to install energy efficient lighting and air conditioning equipment in its Town Hall. Estimated annual savings: \$4,348.

Kershaw County School District received approval to borrow \$500,000 as partial financing of a \$2.1 million project to upgrade lighting in 20 schools, and the mechanical systems in four schools. Estimated annual savings for the lighting portion of the project: \$122,364.

ConserFund loans are available for energy efficiency improvements in public and private, non-profit facilities. A separate \$2 million fund, EnerFund, is available to businesses for energy efficiency improvements and recycling market development projects.

Energy Education Empowers Students and Teachers

The South Carolina Energy Office and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling formed an Education Partnership in 1995.

The results have been astounding! Just ask the 8,000 teachers and 250,000 students who have been exposed to a formal energy education study across South Carolina.

The Energy Education program be-

gan with the development of energy and energy conservation lessons to be included in DHEC's *Action For a Cleaner Tomorrow* curriculum supplement. *Action* quickly spread across the state, being used by teachers in all 91 of the state's school districts. The interdisciplinary kindergarten through 12th grade curriculum supplement is offered at no cost to teachers.

While the curriculum supplement is the centerpiece of the partnership, there are many other exciting energy education opportunities.

The Energy Office recently revised the popular *Energy Factbook*. The *Energy Factbook*, designed for elementary and middle school students, covers the basics of energy production,

conservation, and efficiency.

In response to popular demand from teachers and students across the state, the S.C. Energy Office and DHEC re-introduced the Palmetto Energy Awards Program - PEAP for short. PEAP is a program of independent study that allows students to earn points by completing projects in six categories. Each project is graded by a teacher, and points are tallied according to the grades received. Prizes include bookmarks, certificates, and PEAP T-shirts. Beginning this fall, PEAP will be the Partnership's major energy education program for K-6th grade students.

To encourage energy education at a higher level, the Energy Office and

Continued on Page 3

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Notes From the Director

Mitch Perkins

One of the most satisfying things about working in energy management is that you see the positive effects of your actions in so many different ways. For example, when energy-efficiency equipment is installed, it cuts the use and cost of energy for many years to come.

What you see are the effects of efficiency and renewables that go beyond the operations of an agency. For example, if you live in an area where there is poor air quality, you can improve everyone's air quality by cutting your energy use and the pollutant emissions that go with it. When you cut your energy use through efficiency measures, you also make a portion of your energy demand available to all the customers who share your energy delivery system, whether it's electricity, gas, fuel oil, propane, or steam.

In times of high demand, like the heat waves in the summer or the winter storms, that portion of your service that you no longer need can be used by another customer, or several customers. In extreme cases it may make the difference between keeping another facility energized and open, or having it shut down.

On a larger scale, it was 25 years ago that the interruption of imported oil supplies, and the resulting price hikes in the U.S., caused a national recession. Subsequent supply disruptions and shortages in all types of energy use continue to show how vulnerable our systems and the economy are to fluctuations in the supply and price of energy. The *1999 Annual Energy Outlook*, just published by the Energy Information Administration, shows petroleum imports that made up about 21 percent of our national oil consumption in 1970 are now about 49 percent and predicted to be about 65 percent of consumption by 2020.

Now, if you are thinking that your facility uses no oil and you have nothing to worry about, think again. If you have coal-fired electricity as your principal supply, as most of the nation does, think about how the coal gets to the power plant. Usually, it moves by diesel-fueled rail or river.

Those small uses of essential types of energy are an easy way to illustrate why energy is a strategic commodity in our modern society. It is embedded in every part of our modern lives. It is part of the cost of everything we own, the food we eat, and the conditioned air we breathe. Energy may represent less than ten percent of our nation's annual economic productivity on a cost basis, but without adequate supplies, the economic losses far outweigh the small energy cost impacts.

Opportunities Abound for Recycling Businesses

Selected Southeastern recycling businesses seeking capital will present their business plans at the Southeast Recycling Investment Forum on August 23, 1999 at Kiawah Island Resort in Charleston, S.C. Networking and educational opportunities for private investors will also be provided.

For more information, contact Ted Campbell of the Recycling Market Development Advisory Council at (803) 737-0477.

What's Happening Around the State



The final Institutional Conservation Program (ICP) grant project in South Carolina will close out by the end of June. This very successful program, started in 1980, ran for 17 cycles. Savings accumulated through the program exceeded \$90 million. Btu savings equaled 5 trillion.

In June, the Energy Office, together with the Harmony Project, sponsored a workshop on the High Performance School Initiative. This program recommends fundamental design criteria for all new construction and rehabilitation school projects. Some objectives include: indoor environments must be healthful and comfortable; facilities should be conscious of and responsive to the advantageous use of the ecology; and overall quantities of required operating energy must be reduced. The meeting at the College of Charleston was presented to the Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester County school districts. For further information, contact Earl Copeland of the S.C. Energy Office in Charleston at (843) 953-6951.

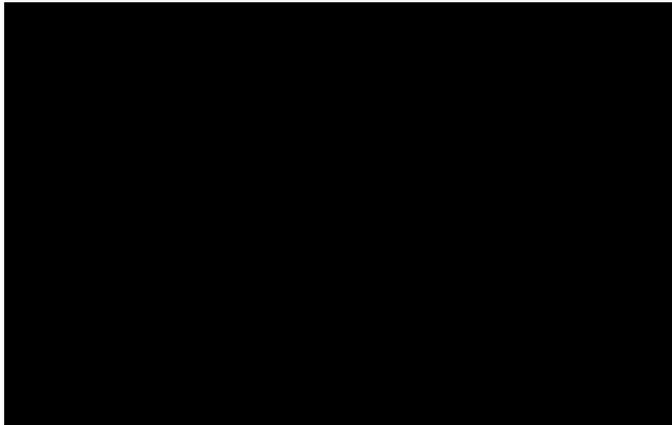
The Citadel is considering becoming an Energy Star BuildingSM Partner. Discussions are continuing with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The S.C. Energy Office has completed four training sessions for vendors and other interested parties on the benefits of geothermal heat pumps. The certification workshop resulted in 15 persons obtaining IGSHA certification for geothermal installations. Over 30 architects and engineers attended the technical workshop. One final workshop is planned for vendors. For further information contact JP Gouffray of the S.C. Energy Office at (803) 737-8030 or 1-800-851-8899.

Continued from Page 1

DHEC are partnering with the National Energy Education Development Program (NEED) to teach South Carolina 7th through 12th graders about energy. NEED's non-biased information on all aspects of energy, including production, consumption, and economic and environmental effects, gives students an understanding of the interrelationship between energy and the environment. More importantly, NEED's student-directed activities empower students to take active roles in educating their peers, families, and communities about energy issues and in identifying and solving problems unique to their communities.

On August 5, the SC Energy Office, DHEC's Recycling Office, the University of South Carolina's Center of Science Education, and the U.S. Postal Service will join to bring the second-annual Energy² Learn Forum to South Carolina teachers. At this free, one-day event teachers will learn about PEAP, NEED, *Action For a Cleaner Tomorrow*, composting, energy, buying recycled, recycling innovations of the U.S. Postal Service, the S.C. science standards, and many other exciting topics. Attendees will receive a one-year membership to NEED, the *Action* curriculum, the *Energy Factbook*, classroom supplies made from recycled content materials, T-shirts, totebags, pencils, recycling bins, and many other great items. Attendees will also be registered to win a recycled computer, courtesy of the U.S. Postal Service.



At the 1998 Energy² Learn Forum, teachers learned about the different forms of energy, where they come from, how we use them, and what our energy future holds.

To start the school year off with a bang, the S.C. Energy Office, DHEC's Recycling Office, and over 40 other exhibitors will participate in WIS-TV's Back to School Bash on Saturday, August 7. This free community event is expected to attract around 20,000 K-12 students to the Canty Building of the S.C. State Fairgrounds. Wal-Mart will be on hand to sell school supplies made from recycled content. Students purchasing \$10 worth of these recycled school supplies will receive, from the S.C. Energy Office, a large bag made from recycled content materials. Students will be encouraged to reuse this bag, taking it to stores, and using the recycled bag rather than "paper or plastic." Attendees will also be able to audition for WIS-TV's "Our Generation," a team of teen reporters; WIS news anchors will participate in a reading library; and Rick Henry of Double Dog Dare fame will tackle school bus safety in a fun fitness test.

The S.C. Energy Office, and DHEC's Recycling Office have many ways for children to learn about energy, the environment, water, air, recycling, and a host of other topics. For more information, contact Renee Daggerhart of the Energy Office at 1-800-851-8899, or Richard Chesley of DHEC's Recycling Office at 1-800-SO-USE-IT.

ASCEM Update

The Association of South Carolina Energy Managers (ASCEM) spring 1999 conference was held in May at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History facility in Columbia. The topic of the conference was the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star BuildingSM program.

Lighting and heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) are the two most energy-intensive building systems in our facilities. While retrofitting each system separately can boost energy efficiency and lower energy consumption, what many end users may not realize is that retrofitting lights and other building systems prior to a chiller upgrade may produce better results. The concept is part of a five-step Energy Star process, a voluntary EPA program emphasizing the installation of energy-efficient equipment and reducing energy consumption. By following the program's guidelines, end users may reduce building cooling loads enough so that chillers can be downsized. Crystall Smith, a contractor for EPA, provided this very informative program.

The next meeting will be the annual Facilities Managers conference, a joint meeting of ASCEM and SCAPPA (South Carolina Association of Physical Plant Administrators), scheduled for November 13-16, 1999, at the Ocean Dunes/Sand Dunes Hotel in Myrtle Beach. Again there will be two program tracks to choose from. We are planning a variety of technical and managerial topics for discussion. If you have any questions or suggestions call Howard Coogler at (803) 737-8030. We are also looking for nominations for Energy Manager and Energy Project of the Year.

Energy Office Completes Energy Action Plan

The South Carolina Energy Office has issued its *1999-2000 State Energy Action Plan*, which serves as the foundation of current and future Energy Office activities. Designed to develop energy efficiency programs in all major sectors of the economy as mandated by the South Carolina Energy Conservation and Efficiency Act of 1992, the *Action Plan* outlines both broad five year planning objectives and specific strategies to meet those objectives. The *Action Plan* also summarizes historical energy use patterns in South Carolina.

The mission of the South Carolina Energy Office is to increase efficiency in the use of all energy resources in all consuming sectors of the state, and, to the extent practical, to maximize environmental quality and to minimize the cost of energy use. The S.C. Energy Office carries out its mission by providing information, technical assistance and financial support to South Carolina energy consumers, producers and policy makers in the areas of energy policy, energy efficiency and renewable energy resources.

As part of the effort to achieve this mission in the public sector, the S.C. Energy Office will use the resources of Rebuild South Carolina, a comprehensive program which facilitates energy and economic savings. It includes financing options, technical assistance, and monitoring and verification programs for the schools and agencies that use it. The development and implementation of energy efficiency programs in the residential, commercial, industrial and transportation sectors are another top priority for the S.C. Energy Office. The S.C. Energy Office will also work to promote sustainable development practices in all sectors of the state, and will tie energy efficiency to economic development and environmental protection in all of its projects.

The *Action Plan* contains 7 goals, 23 objectives, and 147 specific strategies that the Energy Office will carry out to meet its mission over the next five years.

The report is available on the S.C. Energy Office web site at <http://www.state.sc.us/energy>, and can be obtained in hard copy by contacting Tricia Tangney of the S.C. Energy Office at (803) 737-8030 or 1-800-851-8899 statewide.

S.C. Energy Office Awarded Special Projects Funding

The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded \$98,514 in Special Projects funding to the South Carolina Energy Office, for a project entitled "South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership Energy Efficiency Outreach Program." This project, a partnership between the S.C. Energy Office and the S.C. Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), will assist small- and medium-sized businesses in South Carolina in assessing their use of energy resources. It will also help those businesses plan energy efficiency improvements by using MEP's "Competitiveness Review" modules and various analysis software products available from the U.S. Department of Energy.

For more information, contact Patricia Tangney of the South Carolina Energy Office at ptangney@drd.state.sc.us.

Rock Hill and Charlotte Come Clean

The South Carolina Energy Office has partnered with the Catawba Regional Planning Council (CRPC) to develop a Clean Cities Coalition in the Rock Hill/Charlotte Metro Area. CRPC will coordinate the development of the coalition with the Centralina Council of Governments in Charlotte.

Clean Cities is a locally-based, voluntary public/private partnership coordinated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that expands the use of alternatives to gasoline and diesel fuel. Legal alternatives under the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAAct92) include compressed natural gas (CNG), ethanol, methanol, electricity, and liquefied petroleum gas (propane).

S.C. Energy Office In the Classroom

South Carolina Energy Office staffers traveled across the state in May, teaching kids about energy, energy conservation, recycling, and solar energy.

Fairfield County School students who completed a project on recycling were treated to the Fairfield County School District's Second Annual Recycling Fair held at Lake Wateree State Park. The 900 students, ranging in age from kindergarten to sixth-grade, chose from hands-on lessons on energy, recycling, camping, 4-H, composting, hiking, and nutrition. Nearly 40 exhibitors were on hand to teach in the outdoor classrooms. The S.C. Energy Office also taught a recycling lesson at Richmond Drive Elementary School in Rock Hill.

The S.C. Energy Office spoke to 90 4th and 5th graders at Denny Terrace Elementary School in Columbia. Students learned about solar energy, photovoltaics, and the international space station, powered by PV.

Energy in the Legislature

The 1999 Session of the South Carolina General Assembly has come to a close, and with it came some new laws with energy ramifications.

Two bills pertaining to building energy efficiency were passed into law. H3715 requires municipalities and counties to adopt the latest edition of a nationally recognized energy code, thus deleting reference to codes that have become obsolete.

Also adopted was H3716 eliminating the Modular Buildings Board of Appeals and transferring its authority to the South Carolina Building Codes Council. Among other things, this bill requires modular buildings to meet the energy code. They are currently not covered under federal regulations governing manufactured housing, and not covered by state laws governing site-built residences.

In the area of transportation, a bill to revise the speed limits along the state's highways was adopted. It allows a speed limit of 70 miles per hour on all interstate highways. This will result in lower vehicle fuel efficiency.

The adoption of the Budget Bill brought other transportation changes. First, the Department of Transportation is now authorized to directly contract mass transit funds with any private operator of a mass transit system. Also, the Department of Transportation will carry out and enhance the coordination, planning, and demonstration process for public transportation funding. The intent of this proviso is to improve access and delivery of public transportation services, especially in rural areas.

Other new laws include one proposed by Representative Bob Walker of Spartanburg. The debt-limit revisions clarify that energy efficiency projects in schools and local government buildings financed by S.C. Energy Office loan funds, lease purchase agreements, or guaranteed savings contracts are exempt from the constitutional debt limit. This exemption allows local governments and school districts to borrow funds for energy projects and make payments from budget savings without counting the loan against the entity's constitutional debt limit.

Also passed as part of the budget was a proviso to change the code relating to waste tires and the disposal fee on the sale of new tires under the South Carolina Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991, so as to reduce the fee from \$2.00 to \$1.80 per tire.

If you would like a copy of the S.C. Energy Office's complete report on the 1999 legislative session, please contact Kate Billing of the South Carolina Energy Office at (803) 737-8030 or 1-800-851-8899, or see the S.C. Energy Office's website at <http://www.state.sc.us/energy/>.

SC Energy Office Encourages Landfill Gas Use

Landfill gas (LFG) is created when waste in a landfill decomposes. This gas is about 50 percent methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and 45 percent carbon dioxide. Instead of allowing landfill gas to escape into the air, the gas can be captured, converted, and used as an energy source. Using the gas helps to reduce odors and other hazards associated with LFG emissions, and it helps prevent methane from migrating into the atmosphere and contributing to local smog and global climate change.

Landfill gas is a readily available, local energy source that offsets the need for non-renewable resources such as coal and oil. In fact, LFG is the only renewable energy source that, when used, actually removes pollution from the atmosphere. Landfill gas can be converted and used in many ways: to generate electricity, heat, or steam; as an alternative vehicle fuel; to power fuel cells; or to heat greenhouses. Of the 6,000 landfills across the U.S., there are only 240 landfill gas-to-energy (LFGTE) projects currently in operation. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that as many as 700 additional landfills could cost-effectively turn their methane into a energy resource. It is estimated that these 700 projects would produce enough electricity to power 3 million homes across the U.S. Energy wise, this is equivalent to removing 24 million cars from our nation's roads.

The South Carolina Energy Office has joined forces with the EPA to encourage landfill gas-to-energy projects (LFGTE) in South Carolina. The Energy Office signed on as a state ally in EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP). LMOP is a voluntary initiative designed to facilitate landfill gas-to-energy project development nationally. LMOP accomplishes this by providing hands-on technical assistance, information, software tools, and networking opportunities.

If you would like more information on the LMOP, or are interested in landfill gas-to-energy projects, please contact Kate Billing of the South Carolina Energy Office.

Energy Consumption in S.C. Schools & Agencies

Public schools, state colleges and universities, and state agencies spent more than \$145 million last year on energy for their buildings, according to *Energy Use in South Carolina's Public Facilities, Fiscal Year 1998*, recently published by the South Carolina Energy Office. The \$145 million represents a five percent increase over 1997.

South Carolina school districts averaged \$0.83 per square foot, compared to a national median of \$0.95 per square foot and a regional median of \$0.86 per square foot.

Eleven four-year colleges and universities averaged \$1.26 per square foot. The national median for four-year colleges is \$0.83 per square foot.

Twenty-two public colleges without housing, a group composed of technical colleges and two-year campuses of the University of South Carolina, averaged \$1.16 per square foot. This compares to the national median for two-year colleges of \$1.10 per square foot.

State agencies vary enormously in types of energy requirements, building types, non-building energy use, size and other factors relating to energy use. Altogether, agencies spent \$31.5 million in identifiable energy costs. Because a number of agencies have utility costs included in their rent payments to private sector landlords, the actual energy costs for state government are somewhat larger, but not quantifiable.

Three state agencies are responsible for 44.9 percent of total state building space, and pay 52 percent of state agency energy bills. The largest of these three state agencies, the Department of Corrections, had energy expenditures of \$9.2 million for 6.0 million square feet. The Office of General Services, Facilities Management spent \$4.0 million for 2.8 million square feet, and the Department of Mental Health spent \$3.2 million for 2.0 million square feet.

Energy Use in South Carolina's Public Facilities, 1998 is available on the S.C. Energy Office's web site at <http://www.state.sc.us/energy>. For additional information or printed copies, please contact Frank Boyd of the South Carolina Energy Office.

The Energy Connection

Table 1. Energy Expenditures (in millions of dollars) by Fuel Source - FY 1998

Fuel Source	School	State	Colleges	Colleges	TOTALS
	Districts	Agencies	with Housing	without Housing	
Electricity	\$66.336	\$24.534	\$25.541	\$6.501	\$122.914
Natural Gas	\$6.643	\$6.112	\$6.153	\$0.987	\$19.887
Fuel Oil	\$0.211	\$0.147	\$0.034	\$0.001	\$0.394
Propane	\$0.529	\$0.732	\$0.018	\$0.005	\$1.286
Coal	0	0	\$0.886	0	\$0.886
Total Expenditures	\$73.720	\$31.526	\$32.635	\$7.495	\$145.377

Table 2. Average Unit Energy Costs - FY 1998

Cost- per- Unit	School Districts	State Agencies	Colleges with Housing	Colleges without Housing	Overall Average
Electricity (\$/kBtu)	\$0.022	\$0.014	\$0.014	\$0.015	\$0.018
Electricity (\$/kwh)	\$0.076	\$0.049	\$0.047	\$0.051	\$0.061
Natural Gas (\$/kBtu)	\$0.007	\$0.006	\$0.004	\$0.007	\$0.006
Natural Gas (\$/therm)	\$0.693	\$0.574	\$0.431	\$0.745	\$0.553
Fuel Oil (\$/kBtu)	\$0.005	\$0.004	\$0.005	\$0.007	\$0.005
Fuel Oil (\$/gallon)	\$0.731	\$0.616	\$0.679	\$0.997	\$0.680
Propane (\$/kBtu)	\$0.008	\$0.006	\$0.007	\$0.010	\$0.007
Propane (\$/gallon)	\$0.775	\$0.504	\$0.643	\$0.917	\$0.597
Average for All Energy Sources (\$/kBtu)	\$0.018	\$0.011	\$0.010	\$0.013	\$0.013

Table 3. Fiscal Year 1998 Summary Data

Institutions	Total Energy \$ (in millions)	Total Sq.ft. (in millions)	Avg. \$ per Sq.ft.	Avg. kBtu per Sq.ft.
School Districts (86)	\$73.7	89.6	\$0.83	45.00
State Agencies (33)	\$31.5	24.3	\$1.37	129.13
Colleges w/ Housing (11)	\$32.6	26.7	\$1.26	126.16
Colleges without Housing (22)	\$7.5	6.5	\$1.16	88.27
Totals*	\$145.4	147.1	\$1.01	74.71

*Figures do not necessarily sum to totals due to independent rounding.

Status of Deregulation Legislation

For the past few years, deregulation of the utility industry has been the topic of much debate. This past legislative year was no different, with seven bills dealing with the topic being introduced. Of those, the South Carolina Competitive Power Act of 1999, a bill introduced by Representative Harry Cato of Greenville, got the most discussion. The end of the legislative session found the bill still in the Utility Subcommittee of the House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee.

Among other things, this bill would require the Public Service Commission (PSC) to adopt a plan for restructuring the electric utility industry and create a legislative oversight committee on electric restructuring. It allows for a six-year transition to competition, with all customers having full choice no later than six years after the law is passed. Under this bill, utilities would be required to file a plan with the PSC that details the unbundling of local distribution services and stranded cost recovery.

Because South Carolina has a two-year legislative cycle, this bill will still be on the docket when the General Assembly reconvenes next January.

Deregulation is a complex topic with many unfamiliar terms. To make this complex topic easier to understand, the South Carolina Energy Office has developed a fact sheet on utility deregulation. It provides the background of the deregulation issue along with the current structure of the utility industry. Also included are some of the more common terms associated with deregulation. This fact sheet can be found on the S.C. Energy Office's homepage at <http://www.state.sc.us/energy>, or you may obtain a copy by calling Kate Billing at (803) 737-8030 or 1-800-851-8899 statewide.

Opportunities To Learn

Building Energy Code Training Workshops

Charleston - September 15 - 16, 1999

Florence - September 29 - 30, 1999

Clemson - October 19 - 20, 1999

Columbia - October 26 - 27, 1999

The South Carolina Energy Office has received federal funding to continue the training on South Carolina's building energy code requirements. Training will be offered for building inspectors and officials, architects, engineers, designers, builders and contractors. The registration fee is \$100, or \$50 if only attending one day. The dates listed above are tentative. For further information and confirmation of workshop dates, contact Jean-Paul Gouffray at (803) 737-8030 or 1-800-851-8899 statewide.

York Technical College Reports Successful CNG Demonstration

With the support of the U.S. Department of Energy and the South Carolina Energy Office, York Technical College introduced Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles in the City of Rock Hill. A maintenance program was also developed to train city maintenance personnel to maintain the vehicles.

The objective of this program was to demonstrate the performance of CNG trucks and the gasoline displaced by substituting gasoline powered dump trucks with CNG-powered dump trucks.

Three compressed natural gas trucks were acquired and put into operation by the City of Rock Hill with the support of the U.S. Department of Energy, York County Natural Gas, and York Technical College. York County Natural Gas Authority provided the CNG refueling station.

Three CNG trucks were put into operation in February 1998, and as of May 1999 they had traveled a total of 38,226 miles on their appointed routes. The average CNG consumption for the CNG trucks was 6.18 mpg compared to 5.1 mpg for the gasoline trucks. The use of the three CNG dump trucks displaced approximately 7,500 gallons of gasoline.

During this same time period, Rock Hill maintenance personnel changed the oil every 3,000 miles as they did with the gasoline-powered trucks. The oil removed from the CNG trucks was so clean that the City of Rock Hill has decided to extend the oil change frequency from 3,000 to 6,000 mile intervals. Other than routine maintenance, the CNG dump trucks required no repairs, and the performance reliability was comparable to the gasoline vehicles.

Natural gas vehicles are also much less polluting to the environment than gasoline-powered vehicles. CNGs reduce volatile organic compounds (VOC) by 51 percent, carbon monoxide by 93 percent, and nitrous oxide by 33 percent.

South Carolina S.A.V.E.\$ Q & A

South Carolina S.A.V.E.\$ (Schools and Agencies Verify Energy Dollars) was initiated in 1994 to assist schools and agencies in monitoring their energy costs. South Carolina S.A.V.E.\$ participants receive FASER (Fast Accounting Software for Energy Reporting) energy accounting software and training to track, analyze, and print reports on energy and utilities. There are currently two versions of FASER software used in the state: FASER9 for DOS and FASER2000 for Windows. For more information on FASER, contact Julia Parris at jparris@drd.state.sc.us or call the S.C. Energy Office at (803) 737-8030 or 1-800-851-8899.

OmniComp, the software developer, is a division of the Houston-based global energy company Enron, and Enron Energy Services Operations (EESO). OmniComp has recently relocated from State College, Pennsylvania to Houston, Texas to more fully integrate their innovative energy information and facility management software with ongoing EESO product development strategies. Every care is being taken to make this a seamless transition. The toll-free help line number has remained the same (1-800-726-4181). The new Help Center Fax number is (713) 646-8470.

Q. Who uses FASER2000?

A. Within the South Carolina S.A.V.E.\$ program we have 21 school districts, 11 state agencies, and 16 universities/colleges/technical colleges using FASER2000.

Q. What Release of FASER2000 should I be using?

A. You should be using Release 5.0. Release 5.0 was mailed in March, 1999. If you have not yet received your copy of Release 5.0, or need help installing the new release, please contact OmniComp immediately at 1-800-726-4181.

Q. Is my FASER2000 Y2K compliant?

A. Not unless you are using Release 5.0. Release 5.0 is Y2K compliant. All prior releases were found to be non-Y2K compliant. The Windows-based versions of OmniComp's FASER2000 were designed to be Year 2000 compliant. However, OmniComp discovered in its on-going quality assurance testing that all versions of FASER2000 prior to Release 5.0 contained certain defects in data handling with respect to Year 2000 related events. Therefore, OmniComp cannot certify these versions as Year 2000 compliant.

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