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.
### 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 by 20 percent by 2020, as compared to 2000 levels. In 2020, the Energy Office provided recognition for entities that met this goal:
- Anderson School District 2
- Laurens School District 56
- University of South Carolina Sumter

**Reports & Publications**
- *Saving Energy: How Electric and Natural Gas Utilities in South Carolina are Using Demand-Side Management*
- *Implementation of State Government Energy Conservation*
- *Winner of South Carolina State Library - Notable Documents Award*

The monthly *Energy Connection* newsletter was updated to a new format in 2020. Total number of subscribers: 2,504

### 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*
- *2020 Alternative Fuels Corridors Infrastructure Placement Plan*
- *Electric Vehicles and Car Dealers*
- *Electric Vehicles for State Agencies*

The monthly *Hubcap* newsletter was updated to a new format in 2020. Total number of subscribers: 1,581

### Energy Assistance

#### 2020 Events
- **Climate and Solar Energy Webinar**
  - April 21
- **NASEO Southeast Regional and Annual Conference**
  - July 21 and October 7
- **Southeast Energy and Environmental Leadership Forum**
  - July 21
- **Take Action SC Workshop**
  - July 29
- **EEASC Conference**
  - September 25
- **ASCEM Fall Conference**
  - October 6
- **Earth Day and Energy Action Month Outreach**
  - October 1-30
- **South Carolina Clean Energy Conference**
  - November 6
- **SCACAP Conference**
  - December 3
- **Green Banks 101 Webinar**
  - December 14

**2020 Training**
- **HVAC Course**
  - March 12 – 13
- **Boiler Course**
  - April 28 – 29
- **ASHRAE Course: Resilience**
  - May 12
- **Accredited Commercial Energy Manager Course**
  - November 16 – 20

**2020 Grant**
- **TASC Conference**
  - March 6-8
- **Connected & Automated Vehicles Webinar**
  - May 18
- **Electric Vehicle Virtual Experiences**
  - June 17, July 15, and October 20
- **National Drive Electric Week Events**
  - September 26 and October 3
- **Autogas Answers**
  - November 4
- **Propane Autogas for Municipal Fleets**
  - November 5
- **Adsorbed Natural Gas Webinar**
  - November 18

**2020 Training**
- **National Fire Protection Academy- Fire Investigations**
  - October 26
- **National Fire Protection Academy- Fire Operations**
  - November 16
**Financial Assistance**

### At a Glance
- **Energy Savings (kBTU)**: 9,296,175
- **Energy Cost Savings ($)**: 257,316
- **GHGs Reduced (metric tons of CO2e)**: 1,941
- **3 ConserFund Loans**
- **7 Mini-grants**

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

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<tr>
<td>Laurens School District 56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florence School District 2</td>
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### ConserFund Plus
- **Financing type**: 70% Loan, 30% Grant
- **Eligible applicants**: State agencies, public school districts, and public colleges or universities
- **Maximum award value**: $500,000 per state fiscal year

All ConserFund Plus funds have been disbursed. The program will become available as loans are repaid. Therefore, no loans issued in 2020.

### Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan (EERL)
- **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

No applications were received in 2020 due to COVID-19 impacts.

### 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

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

- **2,500 energy efficiency labels distributed to manufactured home manufacturers**
- **$74,250 of ENERGY STAR® manufactured home tax credits**
- **$408,302 of transportation tax credits/incentives**
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.

No in-person energy audits were performed due to COVID-19 concerns, but staff continued to provide technical assistance as requested on a case-by-case basis.

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

Energy Efficiency Roadmap Stakeholder Initiative
Facilitated by the Duke University Nicholas Institute, the South Carolina Energy Efficiency Roadmap involved over 80 stakeholders from throughout the state in reviewing remaining energy efficiency recommendations from the 2016 State Energy Plan, reevaluating them according to current priorities, and identifying new opportunities. In early 2020, the SC Energy Efficiency Roadmap Report was finalized and released, which identified several potential paths forward to help stakeholders and citizens seize the energy efficiency opportunities within the state.

Energy Saver Tool

EV Bolt Purchased
The 2016 State Energy Plan included a “Lead by Example” recommendation striving to increase transportation fuel efficiency and diversity. The Energy Office purchased a 2020 Chevrolet Bolt electric vehicle (EV) in March of 2020 with federal funding from the USDOE’s State Energy Program. As the first EV purchased by a state agency in South Carolina, the Energy Office is using this as a case study to encourage further adoption of alternative fuel vehicles in the state’s fleet.

Reports & Publications
South Carolina Energy Efficiency Roadmap

This material is based upon work supported by the USDOE, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), under the State Energy Program Award Numbers DE-EE0006996 and DE-EE0008294.