



# Introduction to the 2019 Update to the State Energy Plan

## About the South Carolina Energy Office

The State Energy Office (Energy Office) was established by the South Carolina Energy Efficiency Act of 1992 to serve as the principal energy planning entity for the state. The mission of the Energy Office is to advance South Carolina's energy strategy and policy through education and outreach. The Energy Office is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program.

Following the South Carolina Restructuring Act of 2014, the Energy Office is housed within the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS). This reorganization has not altered the legislatively mandated duties of the Energy Office.

## 2016 State Energy Plan

Per SC Code of Laws §48-52-410, the primary purpose of the Energy Office is "to develop and implement a well-balanced energy strategy and to increase the efficiency of use of all energy sources throughout South Carolina through the implementation of the Plan for State Energy Policy" (Energy Plan).

The most recent Energy Plan, completed in 2016, is a comprehensive blueprint to build a reliable, resilient, and clean energy system for South Carolina residents and businesses. It contains an exhaustive list of cross-cutting energy policy recommendations, which were filtered to eight "top-tier" recommendations.

Complementing the work of the Energy Plan, the Energy Office also develops an annual state energy action plan. Per SC Code of Laws §48-52-430:

"The State Energy Office annually shall submit to the Governor and the Public Utility Review Committee, the House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee, and the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee a state energy action plan that includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) activities by the State Energy Office to carry out the Plan for State Energy Policy;
- (b) recommendations for long-term quantitative and qualitative energy goals for the residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, governmental, and utility sectors, and measures of progress for these goals;
- (c) identification of obstacles to efficiency for which legislative, regulatory, or other governmental remedies are appropriate."

## 2019 Update to the State Energy Plan

This 2019 Update to the State Energy Plan satisfies this legislative requirement through the following components:

- (a) **Status of Top-Tier Recommendations:** A status update of the eight top-tier recommendations and a summary of the work of their respective study committees.
- (b) **Work Products from the Top-Tier Study Committees:** Documents that resulted from the work of the eight study committees, including proposed energy goals.
- (c) **Status Update of State Energy Plan Recommendations:** A matrix that includes the status of all recommendations resulting from the 2016 Energy Plan, a list of recommendations requiring legislative action, and a compilation of all recommendations, grouped by status.