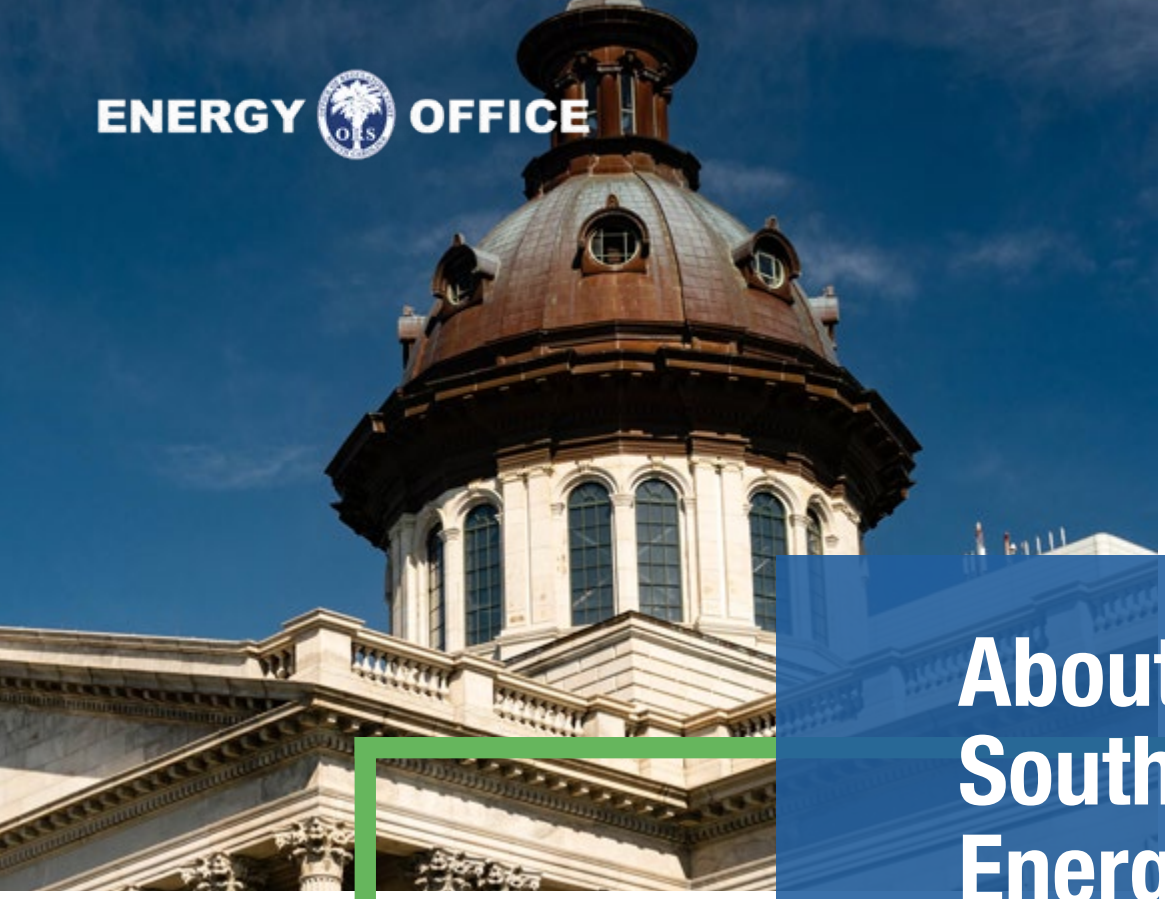


ANNUAL SUMMARY 2022

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.

Education & Outreach

Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

State, Regional, and National Collaboration
The Energy Office works with organizations to coordinate 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 collaborates on events and workshops for educators. In 2022, the Energy Office released updated lesson plans that align with the 2021 South Carolina Science Standards.

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. In 2022, the Energy Office provided recognition for three entities that met this goal:

- District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties
- Dorchester School District Two
- Fairfield County School District

Reports & Publications

- 2022 Demand-Side Management Report
- 2022 Annual Report on the Implementation of State Government Energy Conservation
- SC State Energy Security Plan
- The monthly *Energy Connection* newsletter with a total number of over 2,600 subscribers

2022 Events	
NASEO Policy Outlook Conference	**Feb. 8-11**
2022 Tri-Association Conference	**Mar. 12-15**
Waccamaw Air Quality Coalition Meeting	**Mar. 18**
Gullah Geechee ENERGY Evening	**Mar. 23**
Climate Ready Columbia Conference	**Apr. 1-2**
State Roundtable on Energy Justice	**Apr. 21-22**
NASEO Southeast Meeting	**June 14-15**
Take Action SC Environmental Education Virtual Workshop	**July 28**
Southern States Energy Board Annual Meeting	**August 28-30**
Energy Action Month	**Oct. 1-31**
ASCEM Fall Conference	**Oct. 5**
NASEO Annual Meeting	**Oct. 11-14**
Southern States Energy Board Annual Meeting	**Oct. 13**
Sustain SC's Inaugural Sustainability Symposium	**Oct. 27**
SC Solar Council Fall Meeting	**Nov. 18**
Rural Resource Coalition Annual Meeting	**Dec. 7**
Southeast Energy and Environmental Leadership Forum	**Dec. 14**
2022 Training	
Solar and Clean Energy Fundamentals Workshop	**May: Live Jul-Nov: On-Demand**
Boiler Efficiency Institute HVAC Improvement Course	**May 18-19**
Accredited Commercial Energy Manager Course	**Dec. 1-2, 7-9**

Education & Outreach

Clean Transportation

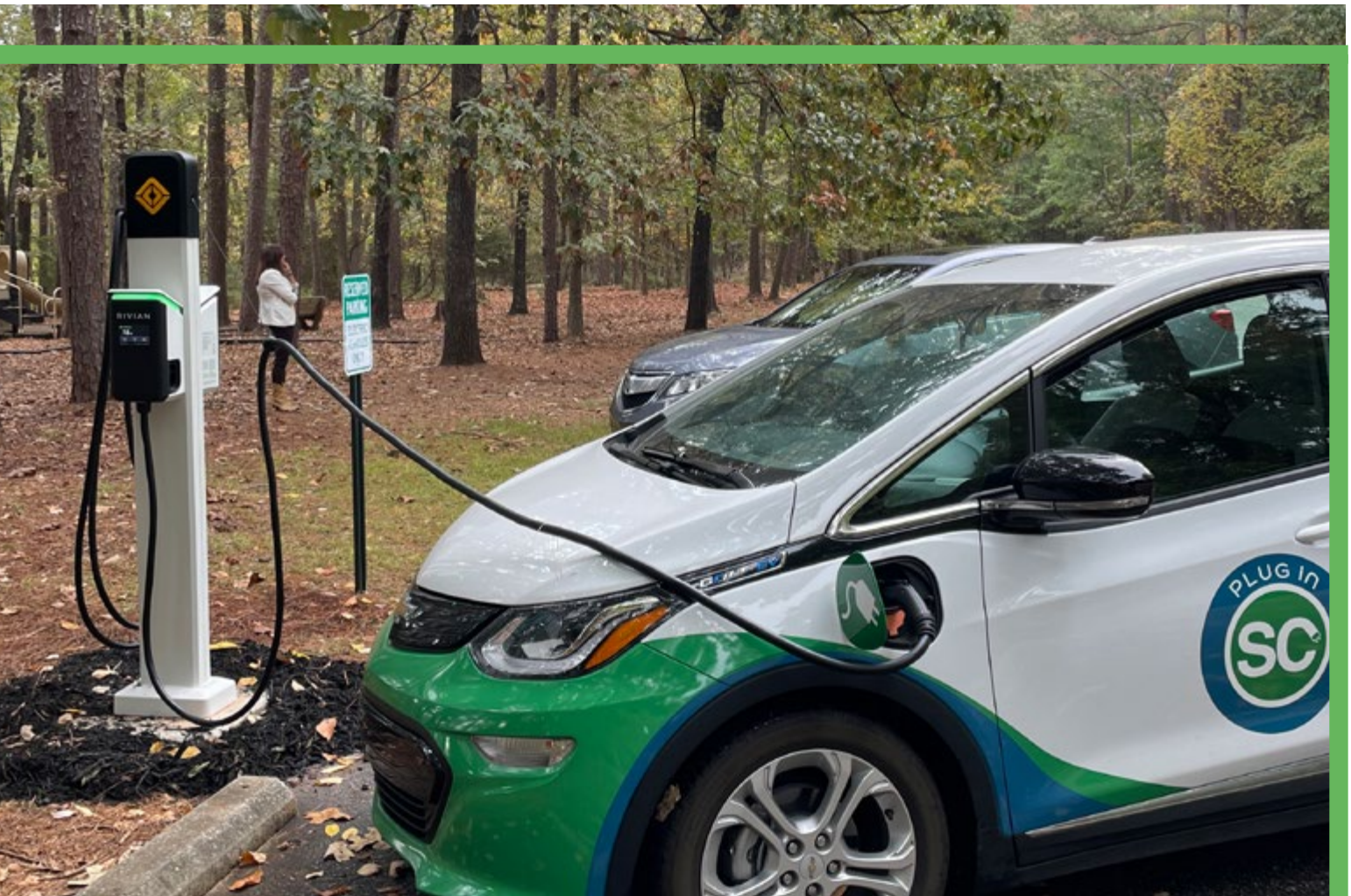
Palmetto Clean Fuels
The Energy Office manages Palmetto Clean Fuels, a USDOE Clean Cities coalition focused on promoting alternative fuels and clean transportation.

State Parks EV Charging Stations
As a result of collaborative matchmaking efforts of the Energy Office, in December 2022 it was announced that the electric vehicle maker and automotive technology company, Rivian, will install and maintain over two dozen electric vehicle chargers in state parks across our state. Through their community charging initiative, Rivian will cover the cost of equipment, installation, and maintenance for 10 years.

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
- SC Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Initiative Report
- Monthly *Hubcap* newsletter with a total of over 1,600 subscribers

2022 Events	
SC Automotive Council Summit	**Mar. 1-3**
Blythewood High School Biodiesel Lab Ribbon Cutting	**Mar. 18**
Charleston County Electric Vehicle Ride & Demonstration Event	**Apr. 29**
SC Department of Transportation Subrecipient Workshop	**Sept. 19-20**
Drive Electric Columbia	**Oct. 8**
Governor McMaster's Electric Vehicle Summit	**Oct. 13**
Dreher Island State Park Inaugural Charge	**Dec. 13**
2022 Training	
Propane Learning & Information Seminar	**Apr. 28**
Electric Vehicle Lunch & Learn	**Sept. 29**



Financial Assistance

AT A GLANCE

Energy Savings (kBTU)
1,478,889

Energy Cost Savings
$53,871

GHGs Reduced
(metric tons of CO2e)
198

8 Mini-grants

*Note: Energy and cost savings and greenhouse gas reductions are projected estimates based on the approved scope of work for each project.

TAX CREDIT & INCENTIVES

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

4,245 manufactured home energy efficiency labels distributed

$97,500 of Energy Star manufactured home tax credits

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

Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan (EERL)

Administered by the Business Development Council (BDC).

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

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

Aiken Electric Cooperative: $10,000
Residential energy audits

Charleston County: $10,000
Six level 2 electric vehicle charging stations

City of Columbia: $10,000
Four level 2 electric vehicle charging stations

City of Rock Hill: $5,000
Three level 2 electric vehicle charging stations

City of Westminster: $9,750
Level 2 electric vehicle charging station

Clemson University: $10,000
Expand Clemson BikeShare network

Florence-Darlington Technical College: $10,000
LED upgrade in 5000 Building

York School District 1: $5,896.80
LED upgrade at three schools

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. In 2022, the following assessments were conducted, identifying measures with estimated total potential annual savings of nearly $27,000.

- First Baptist Church – Greenville, SC
- CareSouth Carolina – Bennettsville, SC

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

The State Energy Plan is a dynamic blueprint for energy planning that evolves as the state's needs evolve. As a result of the 2020 Energy Efficiency Roadmap (EE Roadmap) process, in 2022 the Energy Office conducted monthly working group meetings with the goal of establishing a home energy labeling pilot program. This program is expected to launch in 2023.

In 2022, the Energy Office continued stakeholder engagement activities regarding the establishment of a South Carolina Green Bank. These efforts helped lead to a Green Bank market and feasibility assessment conducted by the University of South Carolina.

The Energy Office also released the South Carolina Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Initiative Report in 2022, as a result of the 2021 stakeholder engagement initiative. The report summarizes the collaborative work of over 350 diverse stakeholders.

Next year, the Energy Office will undertake a multi-year effort using additional federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to provide an updated, comprehensive State Energy plan.

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