ANNUAL

State Energy Action Plan

2021 Update on the South Carolina **State Energy Plan**

OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

The State Energy Plan initiated in 2016 offers a dynamic blueprint for energy planning that evolves as the state's needs evolve.

Energy Recommendations: Opportunities

Over 80 cross-cutting, stakeholder-driven, energy policy recommendations were filtered to eight "top-tier" recommendations. Each was evaluated further, resulting in various reports, workshops, trainings, an Integrated Resource Plan best practices guide, and useful tools like EnergySaver.SC.GOV.

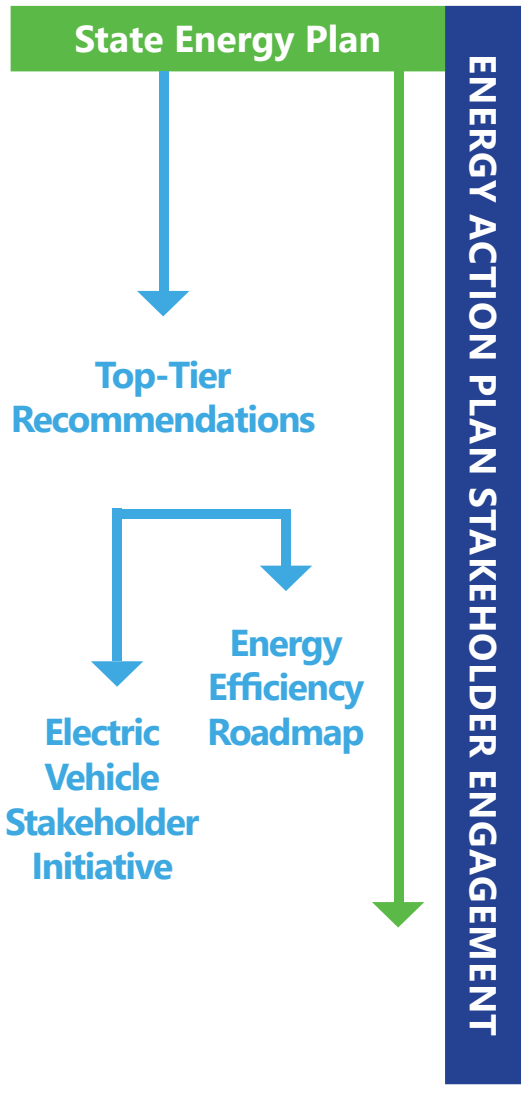
Energy Efficiency Roadmap

In 2019, the Energy Office launched a stakeholder process to develop the Energy Efficiency (EE) Roadmap, which was finalized in early 2021. Stakeholders reassessed EE recommendations identified in the 2016 Energy Plan according to current priorities. The EE Roadmap developed 20 recommendations and set a path for collaborative work. Ongoing progress from this work includes:

- a market study for establishing a state green bank to provide funding for energy projects,
- exploration of a home energy labeling program, and
- development of a "one-stop-shop" for low-income residents to apply for weatherization and home rehabilitation services.

Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Initiative

In 2021, the Energy Office initiated an Electric Vehicle (EV) Stakeholder Initiative. Stakeholders from over 95 organizations and entities evaluated challenges and opportunities to advancing EV and EV infrastructure across South Carolina. Forthcoming recommendations will be reflected in the ORS-Energy Office report to the Joint Committee on the Electrification of Transportation in 2022.



Energy Recommendations: Challenges

While many recommendations had broad stakeholder support, not all of them reflect consensus. Some stakeholder recommendations are only achievable through legislative or regulatory changes. Another challenge to implementation of recommendations is the need to balance environmental quality, energy efficiency, and conservation with the need to minimize the cost of energy for consumers. The recent adoption of the federal Infrastructure Act may provide additional funding to mitigate challenges of limited resources.

ENERGY OFFICE

2020-2021 Activities and Accomplishments

Significant initiatives stemming from the State Energy Plan resulted in many activities and work products in 2020-2021.

Clean Transportation

The Energy Office continued to promote and expand clean transportation options through partnerships and leadership.

- Purchased a 2020 Chevrolet Bolt EV with federal funding from the US Department of Energy's (USDOE) State Energy Program
- Worked with other agencies to include EVs as a procurement option on state contract
- Partnered with the SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (SCPRT) to purchase and install EV charging stations at three state parks in 2020
- Continued interagency collaboration in 2021 with SCPRT and the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to plan for the expansion of charging stations across the state

Education, Outreach, and Technical Assistance

The Energy Office continued to provide ongoing education, outreach, and technical assistance to continue progress begun through the various energy-planning initiatives.

- Provided over 10 training opportunities reaching nearly 800 people on topics such as HVAC and boiler efficiency, energy resilience, energy education, alternative fuel options, and a Accredited Commercial Energy Manager training
- Launched EnergySaver.SC.GOV and the Energy Saver Tool to help consumers easily find energy-saving programs.
- Developed and distributed new K-12 energy lesson plans with energy education curriculum that meets the state's science standards
- Continued to offer ongoing technical assistance as requested, including the development of energy assessments

Funding and Financial Assistance

The Energy Office continued to administer its funding programs to encourage energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation projects.

- Administered the low-interest ConserFund Loan Program
- Completed seven Mini-Grants and awarded eight new Mini-Grants in 2021 to a broad range of public entities and non-profits for high-visibility demonstration energy projects

Reporting and Data

The Energy Office collects energy data and is required to submit several reports to the General Assembly each year:

Saving Energy: How Electric and Natural Gas Utilities in South Carolina are Using Demand-Side Management

Winner of 2020 South Carolina State Library - Notable Documents Award

Annual report on the demand-side management (DSM) activities conducted by electric and natural gas utilities

Implementation of State Government Energy Conservation

Compiles state agency energy use from information submitted to the Energy Office.

Energy Data

The Energy Office continues to maintain statewide energy data to publish data collected from the state's utilities on electric, natural gas, and renewable energy. This site also includes information on utility Integrated Resource Plans and related data.