STATE ENERGY ACTION PLAN 2025

SOUTH CAROLINA ENERGY OFFICE

The South Carolina Energy Office serves as the principal energy planning entity for the state. The SC Energy Office publishes an annual State Energy Action Plan, which outlines actions and accomplishments, challenges and obstacles, and future goals identified by the SC Energy Office. In 2024, the SC Energy Office continued work on the following initiatives and programs that are further highlighted within this plan:

Financial Assistance: manage grant and loan programs and develop a statewide residential rebate program.

Technical Assistance: provide informational programs, including energy efficiency audits, fleet assessments, and renewable energy resources.

Education, Outreach, and Training: encourage energy literacy through K-12 lesson plans, workshops and events, and workforce opportunities.

Resources: serve as an energy data clearinghouse and manage websites, tools, and programs to support business and consumer energy needs.

Planning: manage energy planning that engages diverse stakeholders and provides recommendations to support the state's energy policy.

Overall, this Plan reports actions to maximize energy conservation and energy efficiency while minimizing the cost of energy throughout the state. The State Energy Action Plan reflects the SC Energy Office's commitment to ensuring a reliable, resilient, affordable, and sustainable energy future for South Carolinians.

2024 AT A GLANCE

Energy Savings (kBTU)
2,797,575

GHGs Reduced
(metric tons of CO2e)
472

Funding Awarded
$1,373,563

Manufacturing home energy efficiency labels distributed
3,924

Energy Star manufactured home tax credits approved
$51,750

Trainings Offered

- **Steam Plant (Boiler) Improvement Course**
- **Building Science Principles Course**

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the South Carolina Code of Laws Section 48-52-410, the SC Energy Office, within the Office of Regulatory Staff, is a non-regulatory body that serves as the principal energy planning entity for the State. In accordance with Section 48-52-430, the SC Energy Office releases an annual State Energy Action Plan, which describes the following:

(a) activities by the SC 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.

In 2026, the SC Energy Office will work with a contractor to assist in the development of a well-balanced, clean energy strategy to inform and aid policy-makers as they address the complexities of the energy sector.

Recommendations for energy actions across all sectors and obstacles to efficiency facing South Carolina are described in detail in the 2016 State Energy Plan, the 2020 Energy Efficiency Roadmap, and the 2022 Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Initiative Report, as updated in 2024. The SC Energy Office, in collaboration with its partners, made significant progress toward addressing many of the recommendations identified in these documents and continues to carry out its charge to increase the efficiency of use of all energy sources in South Carolina. Specifically, the SC Energy Office provides financial assistance, technical assistance, education and outreach, and strategic planning. The SC Energy Office continues to sponsor ongoing programs and projects and will host new activities in 2026.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mini-Grants

The SC Energy Office awards Mini-Grant funding to support high-impact demonstration projects in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation. Eligible applicants include state agencies, local governments, public colleges/universities/technical colleges, K-12 public schools, and non-profit organizations.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)
The SC Energy Office received formula funding through the US Department of Energy's (USDOE) EECBG Program to award subgrants to support local government projects and programs to improve energy efficiency, cut carbon emissions, and reduce energy use in South Carolina.

ConserFund
ConserFund is a revolving loan program administered by the SC Energy Office for energy-efficiency improvements in state agencies, public colleges or universities, school districts, local governments, and 501 (c)(3) organizations. The ConserFund program is focused on supporting the implementation of energy-efficient improvements that provide long-term cost reductions and energy savings.

Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan (EERL)
The EERL program was established through the USDOE and the SC Energy Office using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. It is administered by the South Carolina Business Development Corporation, in partnership with the SC Energy Office. The EERL program is designed to encourage borrowers to invest in energy-efficient upgrades to reduce electricity consumption. The EERL program is primarily directed toward for-profit organizations, but is also available to non-profits and governmental entities.

Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR)
The SC Energy Office expects to receive $68 million from the USDOE to provide rebates to low- to moderate-income households for electrification and appliance efficiency projects. The HEAR program will include a $14,000 rebate cap per household, with additional caps on individual equipment types.

Home Efficiency Rebates (HOMES)
The SC Energy Office expects to receive an additional $68 million from the USDOE to provide rebates for energy efficiency retrofits ranging from $2,000 - $4,000 for individual households and up to $400,000 for multi-family buildings. Rebate amounts may depend on the amount of energy savings achieved by the proposed retrofits, and maximum rebate amounts may double for retrofits of low- and moderate-income homes.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Energy Technical Assistance Program (ETAP)
Through ETAP, the SC Energy Office helps public and non-profit organizations identify ways to reduce their energy use and then fund those energy-saving improvements. The free evaluation includes a utility bill data analysis, a walk-through assessment, and funding advisement.

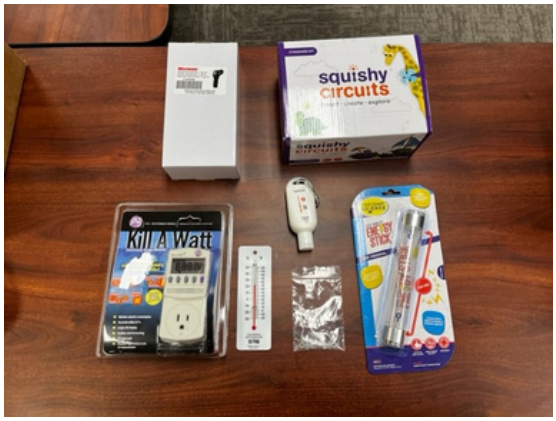
Fleet Assessments
The Palmetto Clean Fuels Coalition (PCF), a USDOE Clean Cities Coalition housed within the SC Energy Office, offers consultation and technical assistance to fleet operators seeking clean transportation solutions. The Alternative Fuel Life-Cycle Environmental and Economic

Transportation (AFLEET) tool estimates petroleum use, greenhouse gas emissions, air pollutant emissions, and the cost of ownership of light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles.

Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP)
The North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC) received approximately $2 million from the USDOE through the R-STEP program. The SC Energy Office partnered with NCCETC in its effort to create an online technical assistance and education hub to respond to specific concerns and needs from communities, local governments, landowners, and developers in North and South Carolina.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Energy Lesson Plans
The SC Energy Office developed ten free energy lesson plans specifically for South Carolina teachers. These lessons align with the 2021 South Carolina Science Standards and indicate the grade level covered by the standard. Lesson topics include renewables, energy conservation, green buildings, energy sources, and transportation.



Energy Education Toolkits
In addition to the Energy Lesson Plans, the SC Energy Office provides energy lesson plan toolkits to South Carolina educators. Toolkits include supplies to help educators implement the energy lessons developed by the SC Energy Office.

Energy Education Workshops
In order to empower educators to incorporate energy education into their lessons, the SC Energy Office is **E** planning Energy Education Workshops in different regions of the state. Participants will be equipped with the knowledge and resources to increase their understanding of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation, and be able to communicate the information to their students.

TRAININGS

Each year, the SC Energy Office offers energy-focused trainings for a variety of audiences. Past training topics included boiler efficiency, HVAC efficiency, solar, energy-efficient building management, and resilience. In 2025, the SC Energy Office offered the following trainings and courses:

Accredited Commercial Energy Manager (ACEM) Course
The ACEM course was developed by the Association of South Carolina Energy Managers with support from the SC Energy Office. This 4.5-day workshop provides energy managers with a thorough overview of the many factors that affect commercial energy consumption and

a foundation for identifying energy-saving investment opportunities. This training prepares attendees to perform commercial energy audits and provide energy-management services to South Carolina's commercial sector and the State of South Carolina governmental facilities.

Coastal Carolina University Solar Course
The SC Energy Office sponsored a Solar Course hosted by Coastal Carolina University, which aimed to support workforce development surrounding the solar industry. Participants of this course learned the mechanics, installation, and maintenance of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. At the conclusion of the course, students were prepared for a national certification exam.

HVAC Improvement Workshop
The goal of the HVAC Improvement Workshop is to train a range of South Carolina professionals, such as HVAC operators, technicians, licensed engineers, and registered architects, in energy efficiency measures. The workshop also enhances the participant's ability to recognize cost-saving measures in HVAC equipment/operation and then to implement the right changes to affect these savings.

RESOURCES

Data Hub
The SC Energy Office Data Hub contains data gathered from utilities, the Energy Information Administration, and other organizations pertaining to South Carolina's energy landscape. Topics include natural gas, transportation, electricity, renewables, and more. The SC Energy Office also partnered with the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles to provide South Carolina EV registration data upon request.

Solar.sc.gov
Solar.sc.gov is an online resource for individuals and businesses in South Carolina interested in learning more about solar energy. The website includes topics such as consumer protections, system selection and installation, and financing.

Energysaver.sc.gov and the Energy Saver Tool
The Energy Saver Tool is a free, online resource that individuals and businesses in South Carolina can utilize to discover state, federal, utility, and other energy-saving programs.

PLUGinSC
PLUGinSC is a marketing campaign designed to encourage a unified approach to EV signage based on recognizable templates. PLUGinSC provides standardized EV charging station signage, pavement markings, and directional signage to qualifying participants. In addition, PLUGinSC serves as an EV information clearinghouse.

Manufactured Housing

The SC Energy Office managed two energy efficiency programs for manufactured housing. Through the Energy Efficient Manufactured Homes Labeling Program, the SC Energy Office provides labels to manufacturers of compliant homes, which exempts customers from paying sales tax in excess of $300. Through the Energy Efficient Manufactured Home Incentives Program, the SC Energy Office reviews applications for $750 nonrefundable state income tax credits for customers who purchase an ENERGY STAR-certified manufactured home. The Energy Efficient Manufactured Home Incentives Program expired in July 2024.

Home Energy Labeling

The SC Energy Office is working with EarthAdvantage to develop a home energy labeling framework for the state as a result of recommendations from the Energy Efficiency Roadmap. Residential energy labeling programs produce an assessment of a home's energy performance and compare it to that of other similar homes.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Awareness Campaign

One of the recommendations from the EV Stakeholder Initiative was for the SC Energy Office to develop and fund a brand-agnostic EV awareness campaign for the state. The SC Energy Office is working with a contractor to conduct market research, craft messaging, and develop an online EV Resource Hub to provide South Carolinians with up-to-date, factual information regarding EVs and EV charging.

Clean Energy Workforce Development Tool

The SC Energy Office created and maintains the South Carolina Clean Energy Workforce Development Tool to help connect individuals and organizations with the training resources they need to adapt to the rapidly evolving clean energy field. The tool allows users to explore in-person and online training opportunities in numerous clean energy subfields, including solar, energy efficiency, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVAC-R).

PLANNING

2016 State Energy Plan

The State Energy Plan provided a comprehensive blueprint for a reliable, resilient, clean, and affordable energy system for South Carolina residents and businesses. The Energy Plan was designed to maximize reliability, environmental quality, energy conservation, and energy efficiency while minimizing the cost of energy throughout the state. It contains an exhaustive list of cross-cutting energy policy recommendations. Of the list of recommendations, eight "top-tier" recommendations informed various ongoing initiatives of the SC Energy Office, including subsequent stakeholder recommendations outlined in the Energy Efficiency Roadmap, and the Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Initiative.

2020 Energy Efficiency Roadmap

The Energy Efficiency Roadmap convened stakeholders from across the state to think collectively about how to increase investment in energy efficiency in South Carolina.

Using the energy efficiency-focused recommendations from the 2016 State Energy Plan as a foundation, the objective of the Energy Efficiency Roadmap was to build on the collective priorities and strengths of the state's energy stakeholders to identify and achieve a shared set of energy efficiency policy recommendations and inform the state's energy efficiency strategy.

2022 Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Initiative

Updated in 2024, the Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Initiative (EV Stakeholder Initiative) facilitated a collaborative statewide discussion to explore opportunities to advance electric vehicle (EV) deployment in South Carolina. The objectives of the EV Stakeholder Initiative were to examine the legislative and regulatory environment surrounding EVs and EV charging station access and adoption, identify challenges and opportunities for EVs and EV charging stations, and develop recommendations surrounding EV penetration and EV charging infrastructure in SC.

2024 State Energy Security Plan

The South Carolina State Energy Security Plan (SESP), prepared by the SC Energy Office, describes South Carolina's energy landscape, people, processes, and strategy to build energy resilience. As outlined in Section 40108 of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, passed and signed into law in November 2021, all states are required to maintain a SESP.

2026 State Energy Strategy

The SC Energy Office will work with a contractor to assist in the development of a well-balanced, clean energy strategy to inform and aid policy-makers as they address the complexities of the energy sector to provide long-range, secure, accessible, affordable, reliable, and resilient energy for South Carolina that encourages and promotes economic development, tourism, and environmental well-being.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The SC Energy Office has had great success in implementing programs based on partnerships with organizations across South Carolina and stakeholders with a vested interest in energy matters in the state, including:

- The SC Energy Office assisted the University of South Carolina in completing a market and feasibility assessment to support the establishment of a Green Bank for South Carolina. The work on a Green Bank continues at a regional level in collaboration with the Clean Energy Fund of the Carolinas. Visit https://cefcarolinas.org/.

- The SC Energy Office, with funding from USDOE, is currently collaborating with other state agencies and nonprofits to develop and establish a one-stop shop for low-income residents to apply for weatherization and home rehabilitation services.

While many recommendations in the 2016 State Energy Plan, the 2020 Energy Efficiency Roadmap, and the 2022 EV Stakeholder Initiative, as updated in 2024, had broad stakeholder support, not all of them reflect consensus. Some stakeholder recommendations are only achievable through legislative or regulatory changes. Another challenge to the 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 federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act provided additional funding to help mitigate the challenges of limited resources.

CONCLUSION

This annual State Energy Action Plan is submitted in accordance with SC Code of Laws Section 48-52-430, highlighting recent efforts by the SC Energy Office pursuant to stakeholder recommendations and providing a framework for activities moving forward. The SC Energy Office continues to collaborate, communicate, and cooperate with partners and organizations in South Carolina with the goal of increasing the efficiency of use of all energy sources in South Carolina.

The SC Energy Office expects to hire a consultant in 2025 to assist in the development of a well-balanced energy strategy for South Carolina. The updated State Energy Strategy will provide a factual assessment of South Carolina's current energy landscape and propose pathways for South Carolina to achieve energy policy goals established by state leaders.

ABOUT THE SC ENERGY OFFICE

The SC Energy Office serves as the principal energy planning entity for South Carolina. The mission of the SC Energy Office is to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation through initiatives providing planning, education, outreach and training, funding opportunities, and technical and energy data services. Its primary purpose is to develop and implement a well-balanced energy strategy that increases the efficiency of use of all energy sources in furtherance of the state's statutory energy policy to maximize environmental quality and energy conservation and efficiency, and minimize the cost of energy throughout the state.

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