SOUTH CAROLINA ENERGY OFFICE

The South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO) Mini-Grant Program will award up to $75,000 for high-impact projects in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation. Each year, the program funds projects that cut energy costs, showcase new technologies and approaches, and serve as models for communities across the state. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program.

Are You Eligible?

Eligible applicants include:

- State agencies
- Local governments
- Public colleges, universities, and technical colleges
- K-12 public schools
- Nonprofit organizations

Project Spotlight:

City of Clinton

The City of Clinton installed two Level-2 electric vehicle charging stations for public use. The charging stations are conveniently located downtown for visitors near the Bailey Municipal Center and are marked with PLUGinSC signage.

Funding Amount

For FY2027, the maximum award value is $75,000, significantly higher than previous years. Cost sharing is not required, but leveraging of funds is encouraged in order to maximize the energy-related benefits of a project.

Application Process

Interested applicants should review the solicitation, application, and scoring criteria on SCEO's Mini-Grant Program webpage. Applications are open from October 8, 2026 to November 30, 2026.

Email your completed application, with an authorized signature and all supporting documents, to energycs@ors.sc.gov. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Review and Award Process

Applications will be reviewed by the SCEO and referred to the Energy Advisory Council. Once a project is selected for funding, the SCEO will send recipients a grant award agreement. Funds will be disbursed via reimbursement after completion and an on-site monitoring inspection of the project by the SCEO.

Please note, funding is limited and Mini-Grant awards are competitive.

Selection Criteria

Applications are reviewed based on the following general criteria:

- Expected energy savings and simple payback period
- Visibility of the project
- Ability to complete the project within the specified timeframe
- Applicant's contribution to the project, including the applicant's proposed post-installation evaluation of impact
- Educational and/or demonstration value of the project
- Expected useful life of the project and impact

If the application is for a clean transportation project, the following general criteria also apply:

- Avoided consumption of petroleum products
- Reduction in vehicle miles traveled
- Compatibility with current or future infrastructure, community interest, or policies/goals

Key Dates

Applications open: October 8, 2026
Application deadline: November 30, 2026, 5 pm
Project completion deadline: December 1, 2027

Questions?

Send your questions about the solicitation or application process to:
Michael Garner
mgarner@ors.sc.gov
803-737-2090

Reporting

Following the project's completion, recipients must submit a closing report along with their final request for reimbursement that includes:

- Square footage retrofitted or affected by the project, if applicable;
- Number of individuals impacted, if applicable;
- Estimated annual energy savings;
- Estimated lifespan of any equipment; and
- Qualitative information about system performance, publicity, and public involvement, such as photos, news stories, and/or other narrative descriptions.

Project Spotlight:

South Carolina Educational Television

South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV) installed window shades in its "Idea Lab," an open-concept space used for events, workshops, and meetings. A wall of windows that spans from floor to ceiling includes shades that block direct sunlight, preventing thermal radiation from heating the space and reducing the need for air conditioning. The shades also help retain heat indoors, reducing heat loss and the need for heating.

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Learn more at energy.sc.gov