

State Energy Office

Mini-Grant Program



The State Energy Office, within the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, administers an annual Mini-Grant Program, a highly competitive funding opportunity for a small number of high-impact demonstration projects in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation. This program is made possible through funding from the US 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
- Non-profit organizations

Purpose

These highly visible demonstration projects should serve as an example to encourage awareness of emerging technologies or innovative approaches to energy efficiency, renewable energy, or clean transportation.

Funding Amount

The maximum award value will be \$50,000. Cost sharing is not required, but leveraging of funds is encouraged in order to maximize the energy-related benefits of a project.

Application Process

After the opening of the program for applications, prospective projects should be submitted using the application form provided on the State Energy Office website at <https://energy.sc.gov/programs/funding/mini-grant-program>.

Application Submission

Only completed applications will be considered. A completed application with an authorized signature and supporting documents can be emailed to Rick Campana at energycs@ors.sc.gov.

Project Spotlight:

City of Clinton



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

Review and Award Process

Applications will be reviewed by the State Energy Office and the Energy Advisory Council. Once a project is selected for funding, the State Energy Office will send recipients a grant award agreement. Funds will be disbursed via reimbursement after completion and monitoring of the project by the State Energy Office.

Please note that due to limited funding, the mini-grants are highly competitive, with a small number of projects receiving funding.

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

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
- Expected useful life of the project and impact

All projects are required to be completed by February 2027.



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, public involvement, etc. This may include 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, preventing heat loss and reducing the need for heating.

Questions?



Send your questions about the solicitation or application process to:

Rick Campana (rcampana@ors.sc.gov) or
(803) 737-5229.