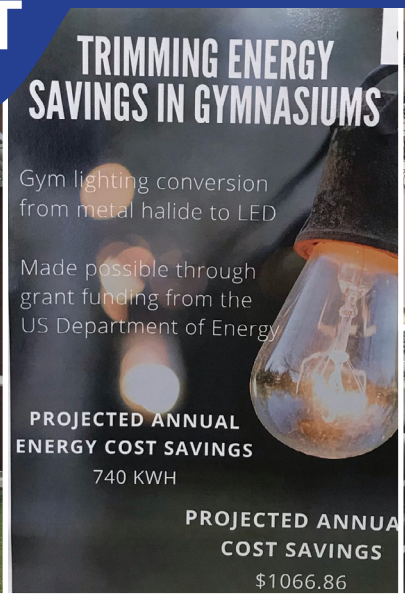
ENERGY SPOTLIGHT

ENERGY OFFICE



The 2021 Mini-Grant Program provided funding for seven high-impact demonstration projects.

The Energy Office, a department of the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, awards mini-grants each year to fund high-impact demonstration projects in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation. Applications for the highly competitive grant program are judged based on several factors including their expected energy savings and payback period, visibility of the project, and educational and/or demonstrational value. Funding for the Mini-Grant Program is provided through the US Department of Energy.

2021 Mini-Grant Projects

With 2021 funding, the Energy Office awarded $70,000 in mini-grants to Benedict College, the City of Greenville, Clemson University, College of Charleston, Lee School District, Richland School District Two, and York School District One.

Savings

Collectively, the seven projects are anticipated to annually save $44,444 in energy costs and over 4,897 million British thermal units (MMBtus) of energy. Over the expected lifetime of the purchased equipment, the projects are anticipated to save $666,660 and over 73,458 MMBtus of energy. The energy savings are equivalent to the electricity used to power 1,837 homes for a year. Additionally, the energy savings result in an estimated 5,409 metric tons of greenhouse gases abated over the lifetime of the projects, which is equivalent to emissions from 1,176 passenger vehicles driven for one year.

2021 Mini-Grant Recipients

- Benedict College
- City of Greenville
- Clemson University
- College of Charleston
- Lee School District
- Richland School District Two
- York School District One

Anticipated Lifetime Savings

- $666,660 in energy costs
- 73,458 MMBtus of energy—equivalent to the electricity used to power 1,837 homes for a year

More information on the Mini-Grant Program is available at: www.ENERGY.SC.GOV/incentives/grants.


York School District One

Benedict College

Benedict College purchased a Chevrolet Bolt electric vehicle (EV) and installed a level-2 charging station for campus police, becoming the first-known example of an EV used to provide emergency service in South Carolina. The EV is branded with signage to promote EVs around campus. It will offset approximately 7,500 miles worth of gasoline-powered vehicle emissions per year.

City of Greenville

The City of Greenville installed a 31.36 kilowatt (kW) solar photovoltaic system on the David Hellams Community Center— located in a neighborhood where the city is promoting revitalization and economic opportunities. The Center hosts a variety of activities, including after-school programing and community group meetings. The system is expected to offset approximately 50 percent of the building's annual electricity use.

Clemson University

Clemson University installed a control system to operate a motorized blind system in the Watt Family Innovation Center. The control system— which was designed, built, and installed by Clemson Energy Visualization & Analytics Center students— operates in response to local weather forecasts and other data. The university is expected to annually save over $2,000 in energy costs.

College of Charleston

The College of Charleston constructed a pavilion and installed a 5.92 kW solar photovoltaic system. The pavilion includes permanent seating, energy-efficient ceiling fans, and other features. A historic preservation review required for this project unearthed an 1853 slave tag later named one of the top discoveries of 2021 by Archaeology Magazine.

Lee School District

Lee School District replaced metal halide parking lot fixtures at Lee Central High and Middle School with high-efficiency light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures. The project is expected to annually save the district over 358,000 kilowatt-hours in energy use and $32,261 in energy costs— paying for itself in less than two years.

Richland School District Two

Richland School District Two purchased equipment to expand the production, analytical capabilities, and marketing of the Bengal Biodiesel program. Through a science course offered at Blythewood High School, students gain marketable experience and produce biodiesel fuel to power the school's tractor and eventually an activity bus. The class was able to increase production from approximately 1 liter to 40 gallons per week and the program was featured in a MotorWeek success story segment.

York School District One

York School District One completed a retrofit of metal halide fixtures with LEDs in the Cotton Belt and Jefferson Elementary School gymnasiums. Both schools are located in areas with high poverty rates, and the gyms are used by students and the broader communities for after-school programming. The project has a projected payback period of less than four years.

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