

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.

How Much Can I Apply For?

The maximum award value will be \$25,000. Cost sharing is not required, but leveraging of funds is encouraged in order to maximize the energy-related benefits of a project.

The 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 rcampana@ors.sc.gov.

Printed applications and supporting documents may be mailed to:

Rick Campana
ATTN: Mini-Grant Program
SC Office of Regulatory Staff - State Energy Office
1401 Main St, Ste 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Project Spotlight



Beaufort County

Beaufort County purchased an electric utility task vehicle (UTV) for use in the Beaufort Solid Waste & Recycling department's litter control program. The electric UTV replaced an existing gas powered UTV that is used in litter patrols, and the new

UTV is branded with signage to promote electric vehicles. It will offset approximately 1,200 miles worth of gasoline-powered vehicle emissions per year.

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
- Located in a Disadvantaged Community

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 October 2025.

Project Spotlight



Montessori School of Columbia

The Montessori School of Columbia installed an 8.16 kilowatt (kW) solar photovoltaic system on their Learning Lab building. This building was recently constructed prior to the project, and it is the School's goal to achieve a "net zero building"; meaning the facility produces at least as much energy as it uses. The solar system is expected to produce over 11,700 kWh annually.



Questions?

Send your questions about the solicitation or application process to:

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

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.

Timeline

JULY 2024

Solicitation Released

AUGUST 2024

Applications Due

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2024

Applications Reviewed

DECEMBER 2024

Grant Award Agreements Issued

OCTOBER 2025

Project Completed