



Energy Office Mini-Grant Program

The Energy Office, a department of 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
- 501(c) (3) 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 \$10,000. 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 each year's program is announced in July, applications should be submitted using the application form provided on the Energy Office website at ENERGY.SC.GOV/Incentives. Supporting materials and technical analyses should also be included.

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, Energy Office
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC, 29201*

Project Spotlight



Abbeville School District

Abbeville School District replaced various types of linear fluorescent fixtures with light-emitting diode (LED) flat panels, high bays, and strip fixtures at the career center. Abbeville School District was able to incorporate the lighting retrofit project into their construction class.

Review and Award Process

Applications will be reviewed by the Energy Office and the Energy Advisory Council. Once a project is selected for funding, the Energy Office will send recipients a grant award agreement. Funds will be disbursed via reimbursement after completion and monitoring of the project by the 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 usually required to be completed by mid-May of the fiscal year in which they were awarded. This exact completion date is subject to change.

Project Spotlight



City of Landrum

The City of Landrum installed a Level 2 electric vehicle charging station in the heart of its downtown business district. The charging station includes electronic monitoring so the city can track usage. The City of Landrum issued a press release, and the article was picked up by the Associated Press, which led to its widespread publication.



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

