

Stimulus to provide over \$150 million for S.C. energy

Passed earlier this year, the federal economic stimulus legislation provides for over \$150 million in direct funding to South Carolina for energy projects through both new and established programs and initiatives. Grants, loans and other energy assistance endeavors are just some of the ways funding is being made available.

The stimulus legislation is aimed at creating and retaining jobs; saving energy; increasing energy generation from renewable sources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions; reducing fossil fuel emissions; and, in general, improving energy efficiency.

There are several major components being used to administer the funding:

Funding for school districts, state agencies, public colleges and universities

The South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO) will administer around \$40 million which will be distributed in the form of grants and no-interest loans to school districts, state agencies, public colleges and universities to reduce the burden of energy bills for taxpayers, improve energy efficiency, create and retain jobs and reduce greenhouse

gases. This will be done through the State Energy Program (SEP). An additional \$10 million in SEP funds will be spent on renewable energy, low-income residential housing efficiency and energy projects in industry.

For more information, see PAGE 4.

Funding for state and local governments

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program will provide over \$31 million in stimulus-related funds to assist state and local governments improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions through a variety of measures.

For more information, see PAGE 4.

Tax Incentives

New tax incentives are aimed primarily at helping consumers become more energy-efficient and encouraging the availability of certain renewable energy technologies.

For more information, see PAGE 7.

Competitive Grants

Around 20 nationally-competitive grants are currently available targeting energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy.

For more information, see PAGE 2.

Other funding

The SCEO is set to receive around \$3.4 million for an ENERGY STAR appliance rebate program, which would make these energy-efficient appliances more affordable for consumers. More details on this program, when they are available, will be posted on www.energy.sc.gov.

The SCEO is also anticipating \$600,000 for energy emergency preparedness and response improvements for when the state is hit by fuel shortages such as last fall when hurricanes took oil refineries offline for weeks at a time.

Other state agencies receiving energy funding

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) will receive \$58 million. WAP is by the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity designed to lower energy costs for low-income families, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating green jobs.

Almost \$9 million in Workforce Investment Act funding is set to be administered by the S.C. Department of Commerce for green job training.

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An effort to study wind power potential off the coast of South Carolina is underway. See **PAGE 5** for more.

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Time is right for S.C. to take clean energy lead

John F. Clark
Director, South Carolina Energy Office

America is riding the crest of an unprecedented tidal wave of interest in advancing the cause of clean, domestically-produced energy and energy efficiency. The challenge for South Carolina is to be on top of the crest, realizing all its benefits, rather than wallow in the undertow.

The reasons for the national interest are three-fold: national security, environmental consequences of fossil fuel use, and, very importantly, the economic consequences of our energy use patterns. These are all solid reasons for Palmetto State concern. We are dependent on external sources for virtually all of our energy needs; the state's rich natural heritage, which makes South Carolina such an attractive place to live, is threatened

by the consequences of fossil fuel use; and our struggling economy needs the shot in the arm that can be provided from reaping a robust share of the mushrooming green job market, in addition to diverting in-state disposable income from economy-draining fossil fuel costs to economy-bolstering alternative uses for dollars saved through energy efficiency.

The recently passed federal stimulus package directly provides over \$150 million to South Carolina to develop energy efficiency and other forms of clean energy. Additionally, the SCEO and other South Carolina

entities have recently secured through successful competitive grant opportunities \$600,000 to develop off-shore wind energy opportunities, \$900,000 to improve industrial energy efficiency, \$100,000 to improve energy efficiency on farms, and \$2 million to reduce diesel emissions at port facilities in Charleston.

More will flow to the state through additional successful applications for funding from nationally-competitive grant opportunities, and through leveraging opportunities provided by

tax incentives and loan programs. Never in history have we had so many resources to advance energy efficiency and clean energy.

And there is more coming. The U.S. House of Representatives has

just passed sweeping energy and climate legislation, with U.S. Senate action likely in the fall.

It is my fervent hope that South Carolina will seize the massive clean energy opportunity before us and ride the crest of the green tidal wave that will most surely come whether we are on it or not. Leadership in clean energy can be our economic savior, but clinging to the old ways of doing energy things will cause our state to replicate the "business as usual" experience of the Detroit gas guzzler syndrome. We need to lead the Sun Belt, not follow the Rust Belt.

“Never in history have we had so many resources to advance energy efficiency and clean energy.”

Stimulus 2009: Competitive grant opportunities abound

With around 30 nationally-competitive grants currently available targeting energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy, there's arguably never been a better time for organizations or individuals on the lookout for federal energy funding.

The SCEO will continue to assist those who are interested in applying for these funding opportunities, whether it's disseminating information, coordinating stakeholders or offering grant writing assistance.

For example, the SCEO recently worked with the Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition and the North Carolina Clean Cities chapter to apply for a very large grant for alternative fuel vehicle conversions and infrastructure including propane, compressed natural gas, biodiesel, ethanol, and electricity.

“We are very excited about the federal grant opportunities, and the South Carolina Energy Office is working hard to ensure entities submit quality applications,” said Erika Myers, renewable energy coordinator. “If awarded, these funds will make a significant difference for energy efficiency and renewable energy.”

The scope of opportunities is enormous; eligible projects include those related to everything from electricity delivery, energy reliability and smart grids, as well as renewable energy, worker training and placement.

For a complete listing of competitive opportunities, visit the Energy Office's Web site at www.energy.sc.gov section titled “Stimulus Information” and “Funding Opportunities.”

Manufactured housing incentives now available

For South Carolinians interested in buying an energy-efficient manufactured home, July 1 was a day to remember.

On that day, two state attractive financial incentives kicked in – a 100% sales tax exemption and a \$750 income tax credit. Buyers will be eligible for both incentives if they purchase an ENERGY STAR® manufactured home. Both credits are in effect until 2019.

“These incentives represent a significant step forward for the state as a whole, considering that ENERGY STAR manufactured homes represent the latest and greatest in efficient housing,” said Trish Jerman, manager of policy and programs for the South Carolina Energy Office.

The tax incentives do not apply to modular homes. Manufactured homes are built to a national building code and modular homes are built to a state building code. The builder, developer or retailer selling the home can tell you whether the home you are interested in is a manufactured or modular home.

An ENERGY STAR-qualified manufactured home is generally 30 percent more energy efficient in its heating, cooling, and water heating than a comparable standard code home. This increased level of energy efficiency can be met using standard technologies and manufacturing practices by successfully integrating three key home components:

- An energy-efficient building envelope (e.g., effective insulation, tight construction, and high-performance windows).
- Energy-efficient air distribution (e.g., airtight, well-insulated ducts).
- Energy-efficient equipment (e.g., space heating, space cooling, and hot water heating).



Modern ENERGY STAR manufactured homes are just as efficient as site-built homes.

And an ENERGY STAR manufactured home enjoys the benefits of factory-controlled conditions and third-party verification. The ENERGY STAR program is a joint effort between the U.S. Department of Energy and EPA.

Algae biodiesel facility to open in Georgetown in 2010



LEFT: While a facility built by Renewable World Energies that converts algae into oil for diesel and jet fuel won't be ready until mid-2010, the company recently showed off a demonstration of its proprietary technology in Georgetown County at the site of its future home. Pictured to the left is just one step in the cultivation process.

The company also plans to build an oil processing plant. The \$29.3 million investment is expected to generate 60 new jobs.

Stimulus 2009: \$50 million in State Energy Program funding for South Carolina

The SCEO is set to administer over \$50 million in stimulus-related funds through the federal State Energy Program, an initiative that promotes energy efficiency, training and “green collar” jobs in South Carolina.

Approximately \$40 million will be distributed in the form of grants and no-interest loans to school districts, state agencies, public colleges and universities to reduce the burden of energy bills for taxpayers, improve energy efficiency, create and retain jobs and reduce greenhouse gases. Funds were allocated based on the size of each organization’s energy bill.

Right now, organizations are busy preparing applications for funding and determining which projects are the most pressing. While the overall goal of the program is to get four dollars returned for each dollar of federal stimulus money invested, projects must have a minimum return on investment of 2.5 to 1.

Examples of eligible projects will include retrofits for energy efficient lighting, heating and air conditioning systems and energy management systems. A revolving energy loan program is also being created that will continue to support cost-saving energy improvements for years to come.

The SCEO will also coordinate several other programs to round out the \$50 million it’s responsible for administering.

Around \$2.8 million will be dedicated to a competitive renewable energy grant program, with preference given to not-for-profit entities not eligible for funding through other stimulus programs.

Additionally, the SCEO will contribute \$3 million to help assess the effectiveness of energy conservation retrofits for low-income residents of manufactured housing. 1,000 South Carolina homes are expected to be retrofitted through this program.

Another \$2.8 million will be directed towards an existing program of the South Carolina Coordinating Council for Economic Development and the South Carolina Department of Commerce which provides incentives for businesses involved in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies to locate or expand in the state.

Finally, the SCEO, in partnership with several other state government offices and the technical college system, will create the South Carolina Energy Efficiency Training Center Collaborative. This initiative will provide energy efficiency-related training, continuing education and accredited degrees to enable South Carolina’s workforce to fully respond to the increased interest in energy efficiency.

Stimulus 2009: DOE to provide over \$31 million in block grant stimulus funding for state and local governments

Over \$31 million in stimulus-related funds will be administered by the SCEO under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) initiative that helps state and local governments develop and implement projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions in their communities.

Twenty-two million dollars have been allocated directly from DOE to the 10 largest cities and 10 largest counties in South Carolina for energy efficiency and conservation projects.

Almost \$6 million in grants will be awarded for energy efficiency retrofits to local governments not receiving that direct funding. The selection process for those projects will be competitive. Eligible projects include retrofits for energy efficient lighting, heating and air conditioning systems and energy management systems. Other types of energy cost-saving projects will be eligible as well.

The SCEO will also use about \$3.5 million in state program funds to implement several other innovative programs to assist individuals, government and businesses in South Carolina in reducing their energy usage.

These activities include:

- Help farmers in the state reduce their energy usage.
- Assess methods for reducing energy usage in multi-tenant government buildings and implement “sub-meters” in case study buildings.
- Support quality assurance and marketing for South Carolina’s producers of biodiesel.
- Expand programs to assist businesses and institutions perform energy assessments and audits.
- Enhance public outreach programs promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- Provide funding for feasibility studies that will lead to renewable energy production, particularly from biomass.

Energy office receives federal grant to educate public about wind energy

Regulation, wind power potential also being examined

The SCEO was awarded \$109,000 in May by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to help generate market acceptance for offshore wind energy development in South Carolina and Georgia. The SCEO will collaborate with the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, electric utilities and regional partners.

The project will focus specifically on educating the public about wind energy potential and consequences. It will also provide technical assistance on wind policy options, aid economic development efforts and encourage collaboration between state and regional partners, utilities and trade associations.

“Development of renewable energy is not only important for South Carolina’s environment; it could also lead to a new offshore wind economy that creates jobs and enhances South Carolina’s technological infrastructure,” said John Clark, director of the SCEO.

However, the grant award is just another piece of the larger picture when it comes to offshore wind energy development in South Carolina.

Sizable grant from late 2008 funding several key wind initiatives

Meanwhile, a task force is examining just how to create a regulatory environment in South Carolina that would facilitate wind, wave and tidal energy production. Created as part of a \$500,000 grant received in late 2008, the group is working on a series of recommendations that could result in legislation by 2011.

The three-year grant is also being used to understand how coastal clean energy can be effectively transmitted to users and obtain data for a pilot offshore

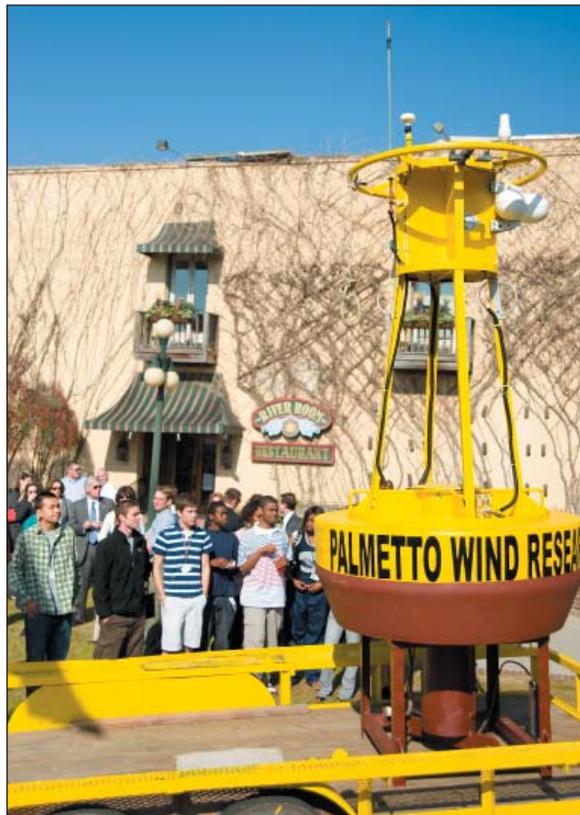
wind project in state waters.

These studies will contribute vital information that will impact the state’s first offshore wind energy pilot project. If the pilot project is successful, the state could produce more than 3,000 MW of offshore wind power that would represent over 10 percent of the anticipated electrical needs of South Carolina by 2030. Coastal clean energy is potentially South Carolina’s largest and most sustainable resource and this grant represents one step towards a green energy future.

Legislative group looking at wind power potential in South Carolina

The Wind Energy Production Farms Feasibility Study Committee, a legislatively-appointed group aimed at reviewing whether South Carolina is a suitable site for wind production, is working on a report that will be submitted to the General Assembly before the end of the year. This committee is staffed by the SCEO.

In addition to looking at whether South Carolina has wind power potential, the report will also examine economic and environmental impact along with the cost of wind farm operation and installation.



High school students check out a buoy designed to measure wind energy potential off the coast of South Carolina for a wind pilot project.

Photo Credit: Jim Huff

For more information...

Visit www.energy.sc.gov and visit our Wind Energy Study Committee page, located under “Renewable Energy.”

SCEO receives \$900,000 grant to improve industrial energy efficiency

The SCEO is set to receive \$900,000 to help South Carolina manufacturers improve their energy efficiency.

Over the next three years, the SCEO and the South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP) will assist companies in lowering their energy usage through energy assessments and training workshops. The SCEO was awarded the funding through a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) "Save Energy Now" competitive grant, a program aimed at helping American businesses and manufacturing facilities save energy and offset rising energy costs.

"This grant will enable us to help more of South Carolina's manufacturers become energy efficient and improve productivity," said John Irion, president of SCMEP.

Assessments help companies identify savings opportunities, focusing on things like process heating, steam, pumps, fans and compressed air. The overall goal of

each assessment will be to develop a plan that increases energy efficiency by at least 2.5 percent per year. It's an amount, according to the SCEO's Tom Hudkins, that will add up quickly over time.

"Although 2.5 percent may initially sound like a small number, it's anything but," he said. "When you're talking about these facilities and the amount of power they use, 2.5 percent becomes an enormous figure over the course of several years."

A minimum of 24 assessments are planned over the next 36 months; they'll be aimed primarily at medium to mid-size manufacturers. Eligibility will be based on the highest savings potential as determined by DOE. Additionally, SCMEP will use its partner network to host training sessions throughout the state to further promote ways to increase energy efficiency.

Thousands turn out for international hydrogen conference

Interest in hydrogen is greater than ever as evidenced by the record-breaking number of participants at the National Hydrogen Association (NHA) Conference and Hydrogen Expo.

Held in Columbia in late March, the event attracted attendees from all over the world representing 22 countries, 328 companies and organizations, as well as thousands of students and other visitors.

The SCEO provided planning and overall event support in conjunction with EngenuitySC and the South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance to help ensure that the conference was a success.

The event showcased nearly 80 exhibitors, demonstrating products and ideas ranging from hydrogen-powered video cameras to electrolyzers and fuel cells for forklifts. While the overarching theme was the potential for growth in the industry, more products for sale today were available than in previous years, including hydrogen forklifts, portable power units, hydrogen production equipment, dozens of components and even hydrogen-powered Segways (a two-wheeled, personal electric vehicle) currently in use by the Columbia police department.

Apart from the conference itself, the SCEO has had a busy year when it comes to hydrogen technology. The office provided administrative and financial support for hydrogen fuelling stations in Columbia and Aiken, as well as a hydrogen-powered bus that will be used by the City of Columbia's bus

transit system. The fueling stations meanwhile, form critical infrastructure to support hydrogen portability, mobility and transportation applications and commercialization opportunities.



The SCEO's Amy Lawrence speaks to visitors at this year's national hydrogen conference and expo.

Stimulus 2009: Wide-ranging tax breaks rolled out

Big new discounts for South Carolina homeowners and business owners have arrived.

The incentives are a result of the federal stimulus package, aimed primarily at helping consumers become more energy-efficient and encouraging the availability of certain renewable energy technologies.

Energy-efficient home improvements

Breaks for existing homes come in the form of federal tax credits worth 30 percent of the cost of upgrades like new doors, windows or insulation. The maximum yearly credit that can be claimed is \$1,500 for purchases made through the end of 2010.

The full list of eligible energy-efficient home improvements is as follows:

- * Windows
- * Doors
- * Insulation
- * HVAC systems
- * Water heaters
- * Roofing

Renewable energy projects

Breaks for both new and existing homes come in the form of federal tax credits worth 30 percent of the cost of projects such as solar panels and wind turbines. Credits can be claimed for purchases made through the end of 2016. There is no credit maximum.

The full list of eligible renewable energy projects is as follows:

- * Geothermal heat pumps
- * Solar panels
- * Solar water heaters
- * Small wind energy systems
- * Fuel cells

All tax credits are available for projects and products “placed in service” beginning January 1, 2009.

Other credits

Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles – A federal income tax credit is available for plug-in vehicles ranging from \$2,500 to \$7,500, with the first 250,000 vehicles sold receiving the full credit.

Alternative refueling property – Tax credits are available for businesses such as gas stations that install alternative fuel that dispense E85 fuel (85% ethanol), electricity, hydrogen and natural gas.

Production tax credit (PTC) and clean energy products - Tax credits are available for biomass, wind and hydropower facilities, among others, as well as manufacturers of renewable energy components and products like solar panels and renewable battery packs.

For a complete listing of tax incentives, visit www.energy.sc.gov.

Quieter legislative session sees revision of building codes

While the 2009 legislative session wasn't as active when it came to energy legislation as its 2008 counterpart, a few key pieces of legislation managed to become official before lawmakers adjourned for the summer.

Most prominent was the “Energy Standard Act” (H. 3350), which adopts the widely-used International Energy Conservation Code as the residential building energy efficiency standard. These more modern specifications will make new homes more efficient – saving South Carolina residents energy dollars for generations to come.

“This really is a big step forward for the state as a whole,” said the SCEO's Ralph Jenkins.

The updated language deals with building envelope specifications, addressing things like insulation, walls, doors and windows. The Energy Office worked with architects, builders, conservationists, home builder associations and

other state agencies to ensure that the new building codes were an improvement over the old specifications and eliminated a major loophole.

The General Assembly also passed Senate Bill 232, which, among other things, makes it official state policy to “ensure that any future energy strategy that promotes carbon-free, non-greenhouse emitting sources includes nuclear energy, renewable energy resources, and energy conservation and efficiency.” This legislation defines “renewable energy resources” as “energy conservation and efficiency, solar photovoltaic energy, solar thermal energy, wind power, hydroelectric power, geothermal energy, tidal energy, wave energy, recycling, hydrogen fuel derived from renewable resources, biomass energy, energy derived from municipal or other solid waste, energy derived from waste oil, energy derived from waste tires, and landfill gas.”

Association of South Carolina Energy Managers spring conference sees record turnout



LEFT: Energy managers and other personnel representing schools, manufacturing facilities, commercial facilities and more came together earlier this year for ASCEM's spring conference.

The chance to learn about how to access federal stimulus money for energy projects drew a large crowd to The Association of South Carolina Energy Managers (ASCEM) 2009 spring conference.

Over 263 individuals representing 104 organizations including higher education, school districts, state agencies, county governments and private sector groups attended the meeting at Saluda Shoals Park's River Center. The conference was especially popular during this economic recession because of its low registration cost and timely topic.

"We were very pleased to have such an overwhelming turnout," said Walter Hardin, ASCEM Chairman and Associate VP for Facilities Management at Winthrop University. "We wanted the conference to be affordable and accessible, so we held it at a central location in the state and kept costs at a minimum. There is a great desire to learn more about stimulus projects, and I think that is evident in the number of people who participated in this event."

Several employees of the SCEO led information sessions. After a welcome by Chairman Hardin, SCEO Director John Clark gave the audience an update on the stimulus package and other state and federal legislation.

Catherine Vanden Houten and Ralph Jenkins followed with an informative session on how to complete your energy

plan and the specifics of a consumption report.

After lunch from Shealy's barbecue, Rick Grant joined several other employees of the Budget and Control Board for a session on "Getting Projects Done" with a focus on procurement issues.

Carol Routh with the State Budget Office, Alex James from the South Carolina Department of Education, Voight Shealy from the Materials Management Office and John St. C. White of the State Engineer's Office joined SCEO staff in this general discussion.

With so much federal attention being given to energy issues recently, structuring the conference around stimulus funds was the obvious choice. ASCEM Board Secretary Julia Parris and the executive board kept costs low by bringing in exhibitors and minimizing all expenditures.

About ASCEM

ASCEM provides consolidation of experience, knowledge and interest in the field of energy management; serves as an instrument for the dissemination of information; and shares strategies for the funding and implementation of energy efficiency projects for institutional energy managers.

If you have any questions about ASCEM or would like to join, please contact ASCEM Secretary Julia Parris at jparris@energy.sc.gov or (803) 737-9825. You may also visit www.energy.sc.gov and visit the "ASCEM" section.



The SCEO's Ralph Jenkins speaks with an attendee at ASCEM's spring conference.



Conference attendees ask a vendor from All in 1 Insulation some questions during a session break.

Green purchasing policy set to take effect later this year

South Carolina is now walking the walk when it comes to going green.

A working group made up of representatives from a number of state agencies, including the SCEO, is busy developing a statewide purchasing policy that gives preference to buying greener, more environmentally-conscious products. This includes everything from copiers to refrigerators to recycled paper.

It's an effort, said the SCEO's Catherine Vanden Houten, to create a policy broad in scope.

"South Carolina state government, in an effort to lead by example, is committed to green procurement in recognition of the need to more efficiently use natural resources, reduce waste, save money, sustain markets for materials collected in recycling programs and protect human health and the environment," said

Vanden Houten.

Spearheaded by Chief Procurement Office for Goods and Services Voight Shealy, the group consists of representatives from DHEC, the Department of Commerce and the SC Budget and Control Board.

The green procurement process requires the consideration of the environmental impact of a product or service for its entire life, with hopes of acquiring recyclable or reusable products to extend the amount of time it can be used.

The working group has been meeting since late last year developing the policy and a set of guidelines, which it hopes to finalize later this summer. Group members will provide a statewide training when the policy and standards are finalized so they can be easily integrated into existing procedures.

Stimulus 2009: Other agencies also receiving energy funding from federal stimulus package

— Continued from **PAGE 1**

The SC Ports Authority received notification of a \$2 million federal grant to repower and retrofit cargo handling and other diesel equipment at the Port of Charleston.

Additionally, six South Carolina farmers received a total of \$102,000 through the USDA Rural Development grant program for energy efficiency improvements on their farms. The SCEO wrote letters of support for each one.

And finally, the South Carolina

Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance (SCHFCA) announced received \$188,788 from the U.S. Department of Energy for the development of hydrogen education programs for state and local government officials.

"This latest award from the Department of Energy is proof that South Carolina is recognized as one of the key players on the road to the hydrogen economy," said Shannon Baxter-Clemmons, Executive Director for the South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance.

It's hot out there!

Staying cool during the summer can be tricky. Below are some useful household tips to help you beat the heat.

- Use ceiling fans. Studies have shown they make you feel about four degrees cooler. But remember to turn them off when you leave the room; the fans are cooling you, not the air.
- Close shades and windows during the day.
- Set your thermostat at 78° or higher. You save anywhere from three to five percent on your air conditioning cost for each degree you raise the thermostat.
- Check your air filter monthly or as recommended by the manufacturer. Clean or replace it as needed.
- Install a programmable thermostat and make sure it's programmed to automatically turn down the cooling when you're not at home.

Source: Project Energy Savers

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Upcoming Events

Green is Good for Business September 1 Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

- Learn from industry experts, visit with vendors who provide green products and services, and network with other green businesses.
- Get information you can use on water efficiency, green transportation, energy conservation, green landscaping, recycling and waste reduction, green cleaning environmental managements systems and more!
- Free admission to the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce's "Business After Hours," a premier social/networking event.

Visit www.coccpac.com for details and registration information.

2009 Energy Summit July 13 Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

- Listen to speakers from the coal, nuclear, hydrogen, solar, wind and bioenergy industries on how these resources actually work and how to effectively enter this competitive job market.
- Listen to speakers present information regarding alternative energy sources, and to meet procurement specialists who are looking for small, woman and minority-owned businesses to participate in their upcoming projects.
- Visit and network with procurement and small business specialists from a variety of different energy companies, energy associations and municipalities.

Visit www.2009energysummit.com for details and registration information.



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