

# your energy CONNECTION

a newsletter from the South Carolina Energy Office

## We're Back! South Carolina ARRA Projects Finally Completed

While it's been some time since we've been in touch, the South Carolina Energy Office is pleased to present the latest issue of our newsletter, Energy Connection. As many of you know, the past three years have been consumed with meeting the needs of the various ARRA programs for which our office was responsible, and we appreciate the many partnerships across the state that contributed to their success. Now that many of our ARRA-related tasks have been completed, we want to share with you lessons learned and provide you with a mechanism for continued communication with our office to ensure you can take full advantage of all our programs and services. We also have a new public information coordinator, Jennifer Satterthwaite, who will be preparing a newsletter on a regular basis.

This issue of our re-launched Energy Connection includes a brief summary of our ARRA results and news about upcoming events. We welcome your suggestions and look forward to working with you as we continue to promote smart energy management for our state.



Ashlie Lancaster, SCEO Director

The SC Energy Office administered the following stimulus programs:

### State Energy Program (SEP): \$50.6 million

As we debated our approach to maximizing the impact of this—the largest of our ARRA grants—we hoped to benefit all taxpayers in the state by reducing energy expenditures in the public sector, encouraging the private sector through smaller, more targeted programs, and using ARRA funds to maintain momentum for energy efficiency and clean energy in the years ahead. In order to ensure the success of these projects and to establish the foundation for a well-trained energy workforce going forward, we also planned a statewide training program through the technical college system.

We have been successful in achieving all of these goals. The largest amount of this ARRA grant (75%) was distributed to state agencies, public colleges and universities and school districts that have reported energy use to us over the course of almost two decades. Those entities were awarded funding based on past energy use, and were charged with developing energy efficiency projects with a return on investment of 2.5 percent or better. The expected savings to the taxpayers of the state over the life of these energy conservation projects is \$175,932,558.

## SCEO Calendar of Events March 2013

- 1 Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition**  
Quarterly Meeting, Earlewood Park Community Building, Columbia  
10am-noon
- 5-8 South Carolina ACEM Training & Exam**  
Central Electric Power Cooperative  
121 Greystone Blvd., Columbia
- 12 South Carolina Electric Vehicle Awareness Day**  
SC State House Grounds, Columbia  
2pm
- 14 Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council Meeting**  
Room 209, Gressette Bldg, State House Grounds  
1pm-5pm
- 22 SCEO Mini-Grant Deadline: Competitive Impact & Demonstration Projects for Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy & Alternative Fuels**  
Learn more: [energy.sc.gov](http://energy.sc.gov)
- 26 Public Utilities Review Committee (PURC) Energy Advisory Council**  
Room 207, Gressette Bldg., State House Grounds  
9:30am

Find out more about each of these events and others as they are scheduled on our website: <http://energy.sc.gov/calendar.aspx>

Other programs funded through this grant included projects to support energy efficiency retrofits for industry and for water and wastewater systems, a program to promote economically viable renewable energy installations, a pilot program to increase energy efficiency in manufactured housing, and training programs to prepare the state for new jobs in the energy sector.

See the full SEP ARRA report at [energy.sc.gov/](http://energy.sc.gov/)

## Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grants (EECBG): \$9.6 million

As was the case with the State Energy Program, the largest portion of this grant was used to increase efficiency in public buildings, in this case, local government buildings. Our rationale was that by decreasing energy costs paid by local governments, we would decrease the costs ultimately paid by all taxpayers in the jurisdiction.

Another EECBG program that benefitted local governments was the purchase of infrared cameras for the building code enforcement offices in each county and the largest cities in the state. EECBG also funded 146 energy assessments: private sector applicants (91), government entities (29), public colleges or universities (14) and school districts (12). The grant also funded a pilot program to assess improvements to metering in buildings holding multiple tenants, an energy efficiency equipment leasing program, and testing equipment to ensure the quality of biofuels.

## Energy Assurance: \$611,034

This is the only ARRA grant still underway. The program was designed to ensure that states are prepared to deal effectively with energy emergencies. We are partnering with the Office of Regulatory Staff to update existing plans, train local officials and ensure that needed data is readily available.

## Appliance Rebates: \$4.2 million

The state received funding to replace inefficient residential appliances with more efficient ENERGY STAR rated versions. The program enabled the replacement of nearly 31,000 appliances, saving an estimated \$52 million over their useful life, based on DOE energy savings data.

Partners in the effort included nearly all the state's electric and gas utilities, the Office of Regulatory Staff, and retailers both large and small.

There was huge demand for larger units which are installed by contractors. This segment of the program began at 7 a.m., March 31, 2010, and all rebates were all accounted for within 30 hours and 19 minutes. Installers of these whole-house appliances reserved rebates online and then provided customers with mail-in forms. The bulk of the remaining rebates were claimed within several months.

Overall, we believe the lasting legacy of the ARRA funding will be an increased interest in energy efficiency on the part of public entities and a stronger network of vendors, consultants and ESCOs that we can draw on to help serve that interest. We also have several ongoing loan programs, which provide avenues for maintaining momentum for energy retrofits.



## Energy Conservation at Charleston's Nathaniel Russell House Museum

**Historic Charleston Foundation** -- As part of the significant renovation at the Nathaniel Russell House Museum, 51 Meeting Street, Historic Charleston Foundation is replacing the existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system for the entire building. The new system will provide better protection for the preservation of the structure, a more stable interior environment for the collections and improved comfort for guests and staff. In keeping with the Foundation's sustainability initiative, a goal of this project was to design a more energy efficient HVAC system through equipment selection and upgrades to the building's automated control system. The new system will include direct humidity control, upgraded controls to monitor energy use, automated temperature set points and variable speed drives to allow for variable energy loads. In conjunction with the equipment replacement, the historic building will undergo a weatherization campaign that includes improving exterior opening seals to prevent outside air infiltration and installing removable insulation in accessible attic areas.

This project actually had its beginning in 2010 with a grant from the South Carolina Energy Office, which funded an intensive energy audit and energy model of the building.

For more information about Historic Charleston Foundation, visit their website at [www.historiccharleston.org](http://www.historiccharleston.org)

South Carolina Energy Office grants had a wide impact and ranged from the installation of solar panels at the University of South Carolina baseball stadium (below left) to blower door tests at a manufactured home (below right) included in a Central Electric Cooperative pilot program that was meant to determine the most effective means of increasing energy efficiency and reducing energy bills for low income residents of manufactured housing in a variety of locations across the state.

