

the energy CONNECTION

April 2023

Energy Office in Action



The SC Energy Office attended, exhibited, and presented at the 2023 Tri-Association Conference

Tri-Association—composed of the Association of South Carolina Energy Managers (ASCEM), the Association of State Planning and Construction Officials (ASPACO), and the SC Association of Physical Plant Administrators (SCAPPA) – held its annual conference March 11-14, 2023, in Myrtle Beach, SC. Energy and facility managers from public entities in South Carolina attended. Attendees were able to meet with vendors at the exhibit hall and to attend sessions on topics such as electric vehicles, federal funding, and workforce. Presentations from the conference are available at: <https://energy.sc.gov/ascem/conferences>

The ASCEM award for Energy Project of the Year was also presented along with awards for the entities that have met their goal of reducing their energy consumption by 20 percent. The Energy Project of the Year was awarded to Richland County School District One for their solar projects throughout the school district. Awards for 20 percent energy reduction were presented to Allendale County School District, McCormick County School District, and SC Vocational Rehabilitation. Those achieving their goal but unable to attend the conference were Chester County School District, Dorchester School District 4, Palmetto Railways, and the University of South Carolina Lancaster. Congratulations to all!

Special Announcements

Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is releasing new information about the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, including informational webinars about the grant application process, vouchers option, and the DOE technical assistance available to support eligible entities. Webinars are open to the public and will be recorded and placed on the DOE [EECBG Program website](#).

- **Voucher Program Webinar:** Thursday, April 13 at 3pm ET. Learn more information about the voucher option for the EECBG Program. The webinar will provide insight on eligible uses, limitations, and the application process. Access the link to attend [here](#).
- **Technical Assistance Webinar:** May 4 at 3pm ET. Hear from DOE about the range of technical assistance available from DOE to manage EECBG Program awards and enhance their impacts. Access the link to attend [here](#).

Questions may be directed to the EECBG Program Inbox: eecbg@doe.hq.gov.

South Carolina Solar Council and Energy Office 2023 Solar Workforce Development Survey

The South Carolina Solar Council and South Carolina Energy Office worked collaboratively to develop a Solar Workforce Development Survey designed to gather information about solar workforce development needs. The survey, which can be accessed [here](#), will be available until April 30th. Questions regarding the project can be directed to Michael Garner at mgarner@ors.sc.gov.



Webinars & Training Opportunities

Training Webinars for U.S. Department of Education Buildings Upgrade Prize

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Buildings Upgrade Prize (Buildings UP) will award over \$22 million in cash prizes and technical assistance to teams of state and local government entities, community-based organizations, Indian Tribes, and nonprofit and for-profit organizations with winning ideas to accelerate equitable energy efficiency and building electrification upgrades in residential and commercial buildings. Applications to [Buildings UP](#) opened on February 18 and will remain open through July 18. [Residential Retrofits for Energy Equity \(R2E2\)](#), partners of DOE, will host a series of training webinars for potential applicants. The full list of upcoming webinar offerings is as follows:

- **April 10, 2023, 1:00-2:30pm ET** – [Introduction to Community-Driven Planning](#)
- **April 12, 2023, 12:30-2:00pm ET** – [Accessing Funding Sources for Affordable Housing and Equity-Equitable Commercial Building Retrofits](#)
- **April 14, 2023, 1:00-2:30pm ET** – [Energy Efficiency Programs 101](#)
- **April 26, 2023, 1:30-2:30pm ET** – [Considerations for Underserved Commercial Buildings](#)
- **April 28, 2023, 1:00-2:30pm ET** – [Drivers of Energy Efficiency in Affordable Housing](#)
- **May 10, 2023, 1:30-3:00pm ET** – [Choosing your Building Upgrade Zone: Structural Equity Considerations](#)
- **May 11, 2023, 12:00-1:30pm ET** – [Building Upgrades: An Opportunity for Workforce and Economic Inclusion](#)

[Greenville Technical College's Solar Photovoltaic Systems Course \(Hybrid\)](#)

May 5 – June 17 | SOL 503 | F & S | 8 AM - 5 PM (plus 3 Saturdays) | \$729

Take a deep dive into the installation and connections of solar photovoltaic (PV) components in residential or light commercial field applications. Students will be required to perform code-compliant installations in field-simulated conditions and will design and install two complete solar PV systems during class labs. Some strenuous activities will be required to complete this course. Students must have the ability to lift 50 pounds and work above ground level to install solar systems. PLEASE NOTE: The prerequisite for this course is SOL 120, blended or prior work experience in a related field as determined by the instructor.



Articles

[SC Biz magazine features the Energy Office's EV Stakeholder Initiative Report](#)

[Solar panel manufacturer to open \\$33M Midlands plant, bringing 200 new jobs](#)

Resources

[SCDOT EV Interagency Working Group Monthly Meeting](#)

[SC Department of Natural Resources Solar Habitat Siting Suitability Tool is now available](#)

About the South Carolina Energy Office

The Energy Office, housed within the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, serves as the principal energy planning entity for the state. The mission of the Energy Office is to advance South Carolina's energy strategy and policy through education and outreach. The Energy Office promotes the efficient use of all energy sources. In addition, the Energy Office encourages energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation through a broad range of initiatives that include developing the State Energy Plan, providing technical assistance, offering financial assistance, conducting education and outreach, and maintaining an energy data resource.



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