

the energy CONNECTION

February/March 2023

Energy Office in Action



Green Bank Feasibility Study

In December 2022, the University of South Carolina, in coordination with the South Carolina Energy Office, released its report, [The Role of a Green Bank in South Carolina: A Market & Feasibility Assessment](#). The report outlines a pathway forward for a potential green bank in South Carolina and highlights potential economic sectors on which a green bank could focus its financing efforts. The link to the final report may be found [here](#). For additional information, please contact Richelle Tolton at rtolton@ors.sc.gov.

SC Energy Office Education Lessons Updated

The SC Energy Office has updated their energy lessons with the 2021 science standards! The free energy lessons and videos are available at: <http://energy.sc.gov/energylessonplans>. You are encouraged to use the lesson

plans to teach energy in the classroom, during after-school programs, or wherever you have the opportunity.

Special Announcements

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Home Energy Rebates in South Carolina

Currently, the IRA Home Energy Rebates have not been funded by the federal government. However, the South Carolina Energy Office will continue to update information on the IRA home energy rebate programs [here](#). **Please note these energy rebates are not currently available.** On August 16, 2022, the federal [Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\)](#) was signed into law. The IRA includes \$8.8 billion in funding for consumer home energy rebate programs which will be administered by individual states. South Carolina expects to receive over \$137 million of these funds, which will be split into two programs: Home Energy Performance Based, Whole House Rebates (HOME rebates) and High Efficiency Electric Home rebates.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is developing guidance and plans to make the funding available to the states. Additionally, states are developing their programs to make the rebates available to the public. Funding for these programs is anticipated to be made available to the states in late 2023. Rebates may be available to the public in 2024.




Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Program


As part of the U.S. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, an Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) will be used to allocate funding to large municipalities and counties by formula, and to small municipalities and counties through the [SC Energy Office](#). Counties in SC that will receive funding by formula are Aiken, Anderson, Beaufort, Berkeley, Greenville, Horry, Lexington, Richland, Spartanburg, and York. Cities receiving funding by formula are Charleston, Columbia, Florence, Goose Creek, Greenville, Greer, Hilton Head, Mount Pleasant, Myrtle Beach, North Charleston, Rock Hill, Spartanburg, Summerville, and Sumter.

More information on funding allocations can be found on The Department of Energy's EECBG website: <https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-block-grant-program-formula-grant>.

Eligible state, local, and Tribal governments can now apply for \$430M in funding from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program!

Eligible entities can use flexible EECBG Program funding for projects and programs that

-  Cut Carbon Emissions
-  Improve Energy Efficiency
-  Reduce Energy Use

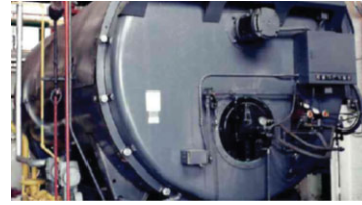
 **SCEP**

States can apply for EECBG Program formula funding through July 2023.
Local governments and Tribes can apply through January 2024.

Webinars

Virtual Energy Management Professional Course

April 5-6, 2023
Fee: \$25



In coordination with the South Carolina Energy Office, the Energy Management Association (EMA) is offering a two-day, six-hour virtual course that provides an overview and refresher on energy management and how <https://SCEnergyOfficeEMP.eventbrite.com>.

Virtual HVAC Plant Improvement Course

May 23-24, 2023
Fee: \$25

The Boiler Efficiency Institute and South Carolina Energy Office shall present a two-day virtual workshop on HVAC Plant Improvement for Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Facilities. Learn more and register at <http://SCEnergyOfficeHVAC2023.eventbrite.com>.

Articles

[Renewable Energy Just Topped a Big Pollution Source in the U.S.](#)

[Clemson University forms new school as globe switches to electric vehicles](#)

[South Carolina to receive \\$20 million to improve rural electric infrastructure](#)

[Columbia-area school district backs \\$24 million bond for capital projects in split vote](#)

Education News

DHEC's Champions of the Environment program announced the grant winners for the 2022-23 school year. There were 20 winners this year, at varying award levels, two of which consisted of projects in the energy sector.

Darlington Middle School, Darlington County Outdoor Classroom Project

The school will construct an outdoor classroom where students can learn about solar energy, rainwater harvesting, composting, stormwater reduction, biodiversity, and the importance of native plants. Although the area will be used primarily for middle school classes, community organizations will be encouraged to utilize the space, too.



Richland Two Institute of Innovation, Richland County Wind Turbine Project

Students at this Green Step school will learn about generating clean, sustainable energy in urban areas using wind turbines. They will build a vertical turbine on campus, test it, and learn how to optimize its associated rechargeable battery.

For more information on the Champions of the Environment program, including descriptions of each winning project, visit www.scdhec.gov/champions.

Resources and Recordings

[Making Our Homes More Efficient: Clean Energy Tax Credits for Consumers](#)

Learn more about the tax credits available to homeowners—and in some cases, renters—for the 2022 through 2032 tax years.

[Federal Solar Tax Credits for Businesses](#)

There are two tax credits available for businesses and other entities like nonprofits and local and tribal governments that purchase solar energy systems.

Local Government Survey on Federal Funding Opportunities

The University of South Carolina, South Carolina Energy Office, and Conservation Voters of South Carolina are working to secure federal funding for local infrastructure projects and have collaborated to create this [Local Government Survey](#). They invite officials and employees of municipalities, counties, councils of government, and other government agencies to complete the short survey to help them better support efforts in communities across the Palmetto State.

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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