

the energy CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2021

October Celebrated as Energy Action Month

October is celebrated as Energy Action Month, an event meant to encourage energy savings through efficiency and conservation.

To further encourage energy reduction in our state, the Energy Office successfully hosted the third annual SC Energy Hour.

For more information about Energy Action Month and tips on how you can save energy all year round, visit the [Energy Office website](#).

[Learn more](#)



Ribbon Cutting Held at the College of Charleston

The College of Charleston held a ribbon cutting on its solar pavilion at the College of Charleston on Friday, October 15, 2021. This project was funded, in part, through the Energy Office Mini-Grant program, which offers competitive funds for a small number of projects. These projects are intended to promote awareness of emerging technologies or innovative approaches to energy challenges.



[Read more](#)

Clean Energy Group Announces \$1 Million in Grants to Advance Solar and Storage in Underserved Communities



Clean Energy Group, a national nonprofit focused on the equitable expansion of clean energy, announced that it has awarded more than \$1 million in grants to community-serving organizations advancing solar photovoltaics paired with battery storage to benefit frontline communities. The grants have supported the work of 86 affordable housing and nonprofit community organizations, representing 93 projects across 22 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

[Learn more](#)

USDOE Announces New \$2.5 Million Prize to Support Diversity in Innovation

The US Department of Energy (USDOE) launched the new Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize that will award up to \$2.5 million in cash prizes to groups and organizations that support entrepreneurship and innovation in communities historically underserved in climate and energy technology funding.



[Learn more](#)

Fall Accredited Commercial Energy Manager (ACEM) Class



The Association of South Carolina Energy Managers (ASCEM), in partnership with the Energy Office, will hold its fall Accredited Commercial Energy Manager (ACEM) course November 15 – 19, 2021, via webinar. The ACEM training is designed for energy/facility managers or assistants at state or local government facilities. This 4-day workshop provides energy managers with a thorough overview of the many factors that affect commercial energy consumption as well as a foundation for identifying energy-saving investment opportunities.

[Register](#)

ASCEM Scholarship Nominations Due February 15

The Mark A. Martin ASCEM Scholarship is designed to assist ASCEM members with higher education expenses of their family members. The student must be a graduating senior from a South Carolina school and must plan to continue their education in some form after graduation. Applications for the \$1,000 scholarship are due February 15, 2022.



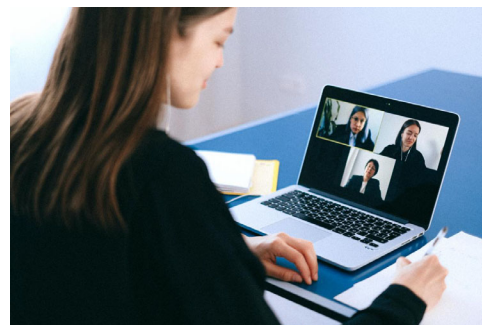
[Learn more](#)

ASCEM Conference Follow-up

The 2021 Association of South Carolina Energy Manager's Virtual Fall Conference was held October 5-7, 2021. Sixty-five attendees heard presentations on topics such as building commissioning, Energy Star, and solar. Presentations and vendor commercials are available on the [ASCEM Conferences page of the Energy Office website](#). The Tri Association Conference will be held March 12-15, 2022. More information on the conference will be available in early 2022.

How to Save Energy Working from Home

As cooler weather is just around the corner, the Energy Office wants to remind everyone about ways to keep your energy costs down. The Energy Office launched an online Energy Saver tool and website in 2020 that can be accessed at [EnergySaver.SC.GOV](#). This tool offers an easy way for the public to answer a few simple questions and be shown energy-saving and financing programs available to them in one central, online location. Users can also search programs by category or by program name to find specific program information.



[Read more](#)

New Solar Arrays Projected to Save Richland One \$57 Million

A new project between Richland County School District One and Schneider Electric is projected to reduce the district's energy bill by nearly 73% when completed next year.

The two-phase project will add solar arrays to the roofs of 15 district campuses and guarantee Richland One nearly \$57 million in energy savings during the next 20 years as the district aims to achieve net-zero energy consumption.



[Learn more](#)

Upcoming Events



Energy Data Management Webinar Series

November 4, 2021
Virtual

[REGISTER](#)



Accredited Commercial Energy Manager Course

November 15-19, 2021
Virtual

[Learn more](#)



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**Training Opportunities with
ENERGY STAR**

Virtual

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**SC Clean Energy Conference and
Southeast Energy Law Seminar**

December 8 - 10, 2021

Greenville, SC

[Learn more](#)

Additional News & Resources

[Participating in Power: How to Read and Respond to Integrated Resource Plans - A Guide for Local Governments and Other Advocates](#)

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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