the energy CONNECTION

September 2022

Events

Clean Energy Week is September 26-30!

Clean Energy Week is a celebration of the policies, industries, and innovations that power our daily lives while producing no or very few greenhouse-gas emissions. The Energy Office will celebrate by hosting an Electric Vehicle Lunch and Learn on September 29 at 12:00 pm. Click here to register and follow the Energy Office on social media for factoids on clean energy and tips on energy efficiency.

ASCEM Fall Conference October 5! Registration Open!

The 2022 Association of South Carolina Energy Managers (ASCEM) Fall Conference will be held October 5, 2022, at Saluda Shoals Park in Columbia, SC. Registration information and a draft agenda are available on the ASCEM conference page of the Energy Office website. Presentations from the March 2022 Tri Association Conference are available on the ASCEM conference page.

NASEO 2022 Annual Meeting

The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) 2022 Annual Meeting will take place in-person on October 11-14, 2022, in St. Petersburg, Florida. This year, we will focus on the theme of "*State Clean Energy Partnerships for Resilience, Affordability, and Growth*." State Energy Offices and their private sector partners are poised for action in deploying innovative clean energy solutions across America's infrastructure – Grid, Buildings, Transportation, Manufacturing, and Agriculture. In partnership with local communities, businesses, and investors, states are targeting workforce development to open opportunities for higher-paying, skilled energy jobs, expanding financing and investment programs to meet the needs of underserved communities, and supporting businesses in accelerating high-impact decarbonization initiatives in every sector of the economy For more Information - https://annualmeeting.naseo.org/

If you would like the Energy Office to attend or speak at your event please reach out to us at energycs@ors.sc.gov.

Special Announcements

The Inflation Reduction Act was enacted by the federal government on August 16, 2022. The federal legislation provides millions of dollars in rebates for home energy efficiency upgrades and electric vehicles. More information will be provided once the U.S. Department of Energy develops the programs.

October is Energy Action Month

Energy Action Month encourages energy savings through efficiency and conservation. The Energy Office will hold their annual SC Energy Hour on October 5, 2022, from 10:05 - 11:05 AM to further educate about energy reduction in our state.

Articles

Benedict's Environmental Engineering Program Receives Accreditation
https://scbiznews.com/news/education/82463/?utm_term=Benedict's

AI Platform Aims to Help Shipping Industry Tackle Emissions Regulations
https://www.environmentalleader.com/2022/08/ai-platform-aims-to-help-shipping-industry-tackle-emissions-regulations/

E-Waste Management Market Expected to Grow at 15% Rate through 2027

https://www.environmentalleader.com/2022/08/e-waste-management-market-expected-to-grow-at-15-rate-through-2027/

Webinars and Training Opportunities

SC Energy Office Electric Vehicle Lunch and Learn

As a part of their Clean Energy Week celebration, the South Carolina Energy Office will host a virtual Electric Vehicle Lunch and Learn on September 29th at 12:00 pm. In this free webinar, viewers will learn about electric vehicles and how they function. The Energy Office staff will also give firsthand experience of having an electric vehicle and challenges an owner may face. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and interact with presenters. Click here to register.

U.S. DOE Webinar Series: EV Grid Assist

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is hosting a webinar series as part of DOE's EVGrid Assist: Accelerating the Transition initiative. The initiative aims to support decision makers by providing timely information on a wide range of topics important to the integration of electric vehicles and the grid. More information regarding EV Grid Assist, as well as registration links for all of the upcoming webinars can be found at www.EVGridAssistWebinars.com (registration links are also included below). Please register individually for any sessions of interest.

Load Forecasting: Thursday, October 13 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET (register at https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5247380085650281231)

Rates and Incentives: Tuesday, October 25 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET (register at https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4979215796705500427)

Planning for the Future: Thursday, November 10 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET (register at https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4381437712968746512)

Solar and Clean Energy Fundamentals Workshop

The Energy Office will provide the recorded Solar and Clean Energy Course that was held in May 2022. This course will now be available on demand with registration from July

through November 2022. The objective of this course is to review the basics, policy, rates, and procurement options for solar, storage, and electric vehicles.

July - November 2022 (On Demand)
Earn PDHs and APA credits!
$50.00
Learn more and register.

Additional News & Resources

Solar Energy Technologies Office

Two new reports from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) highlight the potential for successfully and synergistically combining agriculture and solar photovoltaics (PV) technologies on the same land, a practice known as agrivoltaics. With ground-mounted solar deployment projected to triple by 2030, there will be many opportunities to increase agrivoltaic practices.

The first report, *The 5 Cs of Agrivoltaic Success Factors in the United States: Lessons From the InSPIRE Research Study*, examines the Innovative Solar Practices Integrated with Rural Economies and Ecosystems (InSPIRE) project, which was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) starting in 2015. Over the past seven years, the project's multiple phases have studied the co-location of solar with crops, grazing cattle or sheep, and/or pollinator-friendly native plants, and the resulting ecological and agricultural benefits.

According to InSPIRE research, there are five central elements that lead to agrivoltaic success:

- **Climate, Soil, and Environmental Conditions** – The location must be appropriate for both solar generation and the desired crops or ground cover. Generally, land that is suitable for solar is suitable for agriculture, so long as the soil can sustain growth.
- **Configurations, Technologies, and Designs** – The choice of solar technology, the site layout, and other infrastructure can affect everything from how much light reaches the solar panels to whether a tractor, if needed, can drive under the panels.
- **Crop Selection and Cultivation Methods, Seed and Vegetation Designs, and Management Approaches** – Agrivoltaic projects should select crops or ground covers that will thrive in the local climate and under solar panels and that are profitable in local markets.
- **Compatibility and Flexibility** – Agrivoltaics should be designed to accommodate the competing needs of solar owners, solar operators, and farmers or landowners to allow for efficient agricultural activities.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships** – For any project to succeed, communication and understanding between groups is crucial.

The InSPIRE project also captured lessons for researchers. The Agriculture and Solar Together: Research Opportunities (ASTRO) report addresses emerging questions related to scaling up agrivoltaic deployment, identifying barriers, and supporting improved decision-making about agrivoltaic investments.

InSPIRE is the largest, longest-running, and most comprehensive agrivoltaics research effort in the world. The project has supported agrivoltaics site design or ongoing research at 28 sites in 11 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.

Learn more about agrivoltaics research on the InSPIRE website and through the AgriSolar Clearinghouse, which contains videos, tutorials, and guides that address a wide range of topics.
Learn more about SETO's research into solar and agriculture co-location.

2022 Faith Communities & Climate Resilience Summit

For those who were unable to attend the 2022 Faith Communities & Climate Resilience Summit, or those who are interested in diving deeper into climate resilience, you can find the recordings here Creation Justice Ministries YouTube page.

Glad Tidings: How a California Congregation Is Pioneering a New Model by Building a Clean Energy Hub with Solar and EVs

Glad Tidings International Church is a critical facility for the community of South Hayward in the Bay Area of California. To make sure they can support their congregation and community during a power outage, as well as to accelerate South Hayward's transition to clean energy, Glad Tidings applied to Clean Energy Group's Technical Assistance Fund (https://tinyurl.com/CEG-TAF) to assess the feasibility of creating a clean energy hub.

This Clean Energy Group webinar will provide an overview of how the congregation decided to pursue this innovative project, and we will get an overview of the resulting project from Gemini Energy Solutions. Gemini will also discuss their effort to bring Black-owned businesses into the scope of the project. Speakers from OpConnect will discuss how they integrated a small fleet of electric vehicles into the solar+storage resilience component of the clean energy hub. Slides and a recording have been posted on Clean Energy Group's website at: https://www.cleanegroup.org/webinar/glad-tidings/

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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