

the energy CONNECTION

August 2023

Federal Activity

The South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO) is participating in the United States Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. Upon award from DOE, SCEO plans to provide funding opportunities to support projects and programs that cut carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, and reduce energy use. Eligible entities include county and municipal governments in South Carolina that were **not** eligible to receive [EECBG direct formula funding from DOE](#). SCEO's funds will be used to award between 20 and 30 subgrants, with each subrecipient eligible to receive between \$50,000 and \$75,000. Subrecipients have the option of working together to combine funds for larger projects for more significant impacts. To receive future updates regarding SCEO's EECBG program, please email energyocs@ors.sc.gov.

Featured Article





Solar Consumer Protection

As solar becomes a more affordable option for South Carolinians, there are important things to know before making the decision to install solar for your home or business.

Act 62 directed the SC Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) to develop consumer protection regulations in collaboration with the SC Department of Consumer Affairs. The regulations protect consumers and require solar companies to provide appropriate disclosures. In addition, solar customers now have a formal process to resolve any complaints.

If you plan to lease your system, check with ORS to make sure the solar company has a Certificate of Fit, Willing and Able. All solar leases must include:

1. Contact information for the ORS Consumer Services department;
2. Copies of any applicable warranties;
3. Notice that the utility incentives and rates may change during the lease period; and
4. Clear explanations of all payments, interest, and fees that will be paid under the terms of the lease.

Whether you are leasing or buying your system, it is important to know:

1. If you are 70 years of age or older, the seller must provide a written copy of the contract to you at least 3 days before it is signed.
2. You have 10 days from the date of signature to cancel with no penalty or fees.
3. You must be provided a copy of the complete contract for your review.

Be aware of salespersons posing as utility employees selling solar systems. Remember that utility companies do not typically sell or install solar systems. Please contact your specific utility for any necessary information regarding the installation of solar.

If you need help, reach out to the following:

Solar system sales or installers

SC Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)
803-794-4200
scda@scconsumer.gov
consumer.sc.gov

Solar leasing companies or electric utilities
SC Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS)
803-737-5230
complaints@ors.sc.gov

Contractor or installer licenses
SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR)
803-896-4300
contact@llr.sc.gov
llr.sc.gov

Additional solar resources include:

<https://solar.sc.gov/>

<https://ors.sc.gov/consumers/electric-natural-gas/solar/solar-leasing-consumer-protection-regulations>

<https://consumer.sc.gov/business-resources/laws/business-education-tools>
(Choose “Renewable Energy”)

<https://solar.sc.gov/consumer-protections>

Energy Office in Action

NASEO New Director Orientation

Sara Bazemore, Director, and Stacey Washington, Deputy Director, attended the NASEO New Director Orientation in Washington, D.C. on July 18-21, 2023. Sara and Stacey joined representatives from other states and territories to exchange ideas, understand the history and potential of the State Energy Program, and how the flexibility of the program allows State Energy Offices to best serve each state’s unique energy planning needs. They met with a variety of federal agencies and congressional committees including the Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture, House Committee on Energy and Commerce staff, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources staff, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and White House staff. They learned about the work of these agencies and had a chance to share details of the work of the Energy Office.



Webinar & Training Opportunities

Investing in America: Climate Action Funding Fair

Aug 7-11, 2023

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is hosting the Investing in America: Climate Action Funding Fair online the week of August 7, 2023. Representatives from various federal agencies and non-profit organizations will present their insights on key funding programs and share ideas on opportunities for leveraging complementary incentives.

Here Comes the Sun: Innovative Community Solar Systems

Aug 15, 2023 - 11:00 AM

[Register Here](#)

Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of community solar, get resources from the Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO), and find out how Better Buildings partners are planning and implementing best practices to encourage equitable community solar systems.

The Next Big Thing: HVAC Control Technology for Small to Medium Commercial Buildings

Aug 17, 2023 - 11:00 AM

[Register Here](#)

Most commercial buildings in the U.S. are small- to medium-sized and have packaged HVAC Rooftop Unit (RTU) equipment. Join this webinar for an overview of current RTU control technology capabilities and hear from two building owners who are taking advantage of the benefits they offer. Attendees will also learn about DOE's new Smarter Small Buildings Campaign that provides technical assistance and recognition opportunities for RTU control implementation.



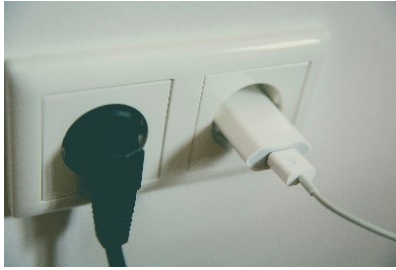
Articles

[Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign Honors 17 School Districts for Facility Upgrades](#)

[R2i2 Gets Its First Patent](#)

[Trash to Treasure: Columbia Kids Camp Makes Art from Recycled Materials](#)

[City of Columbia receives national recognition for environmentally sustainable practices](#)



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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