

the energy CONNECTION

February 2024

Special Announcement

Congratulations Accredited Commercial Energy Manager Graduates!

Offered by the Energy Office and the Association of South Carolina Energy Managers, the 23rd Accredited Commercial Energy Manager (ACEM) course was held December 11 – 15, 2023. Through this course, students learned about energy management principles and how to evaluate the energy efficiency of equipment within their own facilities. This challenging course culminated with an exam on the final day. The following graduates accepted the challenge, passed the exam, and are now ACEMs. Congratulations to these graduates!



2023 ACEM Graduates

Braden Bright, Harris Integrated Solutions
Inga Caudill, SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
Scott Dalton, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative
Matthew Holmes, Horry Electric Cooperative
William Jordan, Darlington School District
Gordon Lay, Horry Electric Cooperative
Jamison Lewis, Horry Electric Cooperative
Andrew Macke, Greenwood School District 52

Bill McPherson, Lexington School District Two
Kayla Nelums, SC ORS Energy Office
Noah Phillips, Clemson University
Claire Thompson, SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
Brad Wentworth, Furman University
James Whitt, Michelin Tire

The 2023 ACEM course was instructed by Lonnie Russell, a Senior Sales Manager with Autel. We anticipate the next ACEM course to be offered in Fall 2024. If you have any questions about the course or would like to receive a notification the next time it is available, please contact Rick Campana at rcampana@ors.sc.gov or (803) 737-5229.

2024 Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Initiative Survey

The Energy Office submitted its SC Electric Vehicle (EV) Stakeholder Report in September 2022, which included initial recommendations from SC's EV stakeholders, like you. South Carolina Code of Laws § 58-27-270(D) (2021 Act 46) requires the Energy Office to continue its EV stakeholder initiatives and report recommendations every two years thereafter.

Please complete the survey linked below to help the Energy Office gather more information about the challenges, opportunities, and ongoing efforts related to transportation electrification in South Carolina.

[2024 SC Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Initiative Survey](#)

Energy Office in Action



SC's Competitive Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program

In mid-November 2023, the SC Energy Office (SCEO) received a notice of award from the U.S. DOE for the state's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. At the end of November, the SCEO opened the application period for most SC municipalities and counties to submit applications for the subgrant program. The program's purpose is to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy use, cut carbon emissions, and build a clean and equitable energy economy. On December 12, the Energy Office hosted a webinar to provide additional guidance on the subgrant program. The application period ended on January 8, 2024, and the submitted applications are under review for project award selections. For more information and updates, please visit [SCEO's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block webpage](#).



SC Energy Office Mini-Grant Awardees Selected

Each year the Energy Office offers Mini-Grants for high-impact projects in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation. These highly visible demonstration projects encourage awareness of emerging technologies or innovative approaches to energy efficiency, renewable energy, or clean transportation.

Among this year's projects are three energy efficiency projects, four electric vehicle charging station projects, and one renewable energy project.

The 2023 awardees include:

- City of Clinton
- City of Gaffney
- City of Greenwood
- City of Westminster
- Dorchester School District 2
- Greenville Water
- SC Educational Television Commission
- Voorhees University

Mini-grant applications are reviewed based on criteria such as the expected energy savings, ability to complete the project within the specified timeframe, educational and/or demonstration value of the project, and benefits to disadvantaged communities. Additionally, clean transportation projects are evaluated based on their avoidance of consumption of petroleum products, reduction in vehicle miles traveled, compatibility with

infrastructure, and expected useful life. The applications are reviewed by the Energy Office and approved by the ORS Executive Director with input from the Energy Advisory Council.

More information on the Mini-Grant Program can be found at <https://energy.sc.gov/programs/funding/mini-grant-program>.

Articles

[The U.S. Department of Energy Announces 25 Competitors in Prize to Advance Equitable Community Solar Development](#)

[EIA: Solar and Wind to Lead U.S. Generation Growth for Next Two Years](#)

[US Energy Tax Credit Trading Grows to as Much as \\$9 Billion, Study Finds](#)

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \\$104 Million to Advance Net-Zero Projects at Federal Facilities](#)

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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