

# SCSL Digital Collections

## Energy Office annual 2020 summary

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## About the South Carolina Energy Office

The Energy Office serves as the main energy-planning organization for South Carolina. The goal 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
- Maintaining an Energy Data Resource



The US Department of Energy's (USDOE) State Energy Program provides funding and technical assistance to enhance energy security, advance state-led energy initiatives, and maximize the benefits of decreasing energy waste.



The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) represents consumers of investor-owned utilities in South Carolina before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC). The PSC is the state agency that sets utilities' rates. The ORS must look at the impact to the consumer and utilities' continued investment in reliable and high-quality services

# Education & Outreach

## Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

### State, Regional, and National Collaboration

The Energy Office works with organizations to organize events, provide technical assistance, and share information.

### Energy Education

To promote energy education in schools, the Energy Office provides lesson plans and other resources for K-12 classrooms and teachers. The Energy Office also collaborates with organizations on events and workshops for educators.

### Public Entity Energy Reduction

State agencies, public school districts, and public colleges and universities are required to develop energy conservation plans and reduce their energy consumption by 20 percent by 2020, as compared to 2000 levels. In 2020, the Energy Office provided recognition for entities that met this goal:

- Anderson School District 2
- Laurens School District 56
- University of South Carolina Sumter

### Reports & Publications

*Saving Energy: How Electric and Natural Gas Utilities in South Carolina are Using Demand-Side Management*

*Implementation of State Government Energy Conservation Winner of South Carolina State Library - Notable Documents Award*

The monthly *Energy Connection* newsletter was updated to a new format in 2020. Total number of subscribers: **2,504**

### 2020 Events

Climate and Solar Energy Webinar	April 21
NASEO Southeast Regional and Annual Conference	July 21 and October 7
Southeast Energy and Environmental Leadership Forum	July 21
Take Action SC Workshop	July 29
EEASC Conference	September 25
ASCEM Fall Conference	October 6
Earth Day and Energy Action Month Outreach	October 1-30
South Carolina Clean Energy Conference	November 6
SCACAP Conference	December 3
Green Banks 101 Webinar	December 14

### 2020 Training

HVAC Course	March 12 – 13
Boiler Course	April 28 – 29
ASHRAE Course: Resilience	May 12
Accredited Commercial Energy Manager Course	November 16 – 20

## Clean Transportation

### Palmetto Clean Fuels

The Energy Office administers the Palmetto Clean Fuels, a USDOE Clean Cities coalition, to promote alternative fuels and clean transportation.

### State Parks EV Charging Stations

The Energy Office partnered with the SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism to purchase and install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at three state parks using funding from the USDOE's State Energy Program.

### Plug in SC Incentive Program

The Plug in SC Incentive Program enables qualifying participants to obtain standardized EV signage so that charging stations are easily identifiable.

### Reports & Publications

*Annual Alternative Fuel and Petroleum Reduction Report*

*2020 Alternative Fuels Corridors Infrastructure Placement Plan*

*Electric Vehicles and Car Dealers*

*Electric Vehicles for State Agencies*

The monthly *Hubcap* newsletter was updated to a new format in 2020. Total number of subscribers: **1,581**

### 2020 Events

TASC Conference	March 6-8
Connected & Automated Vehicles Webinar	May 18
Electric Vehicle Virtual Experiences	June 17, July 15, and October 20
National Drive Electric Week Events	September 26 and October 3
Autogas Answers	November 4
Propane Autogas for Municipal Fleets	November 5
Adsorbed Natural Gas Webinar	November 18

### 2020 Training

National Fire Protection Academy- Fire Investigations	October 26
National Fire Protection Academy- Fire Operations	November 16

# Financial Assistance

## At a Glance

Energy Savings (kBtu)  
**9,296,175**

Energy Cost Savings (\$)  
**\$257,316**

GHGs Reduced  
(metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e)  
**1,941**

**3** ConserFund Loans

**7** Mini-grants

The Energy Office offers several financing options for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation initiatives. These include low-interest loans, grants, tax incentives, and information on utility incentives. A nine-member Energy Advisory Council reviews and makes recommendations to the ORS Executive Director on awards. The ORS Executive Director makes the final award determinations.

### ConserFund

**Financing type:** Loan

**Eligible applicants:** State agencies, public school districts, public colleges or universities, local governments, and 501(c)(3) organizations

**Maximum award value:** \$500,000 per state fiscal year

**Laurens School District 56:** \$524,000  
LED lighting in five facilities

**Newberry College:** \$526,995  
LED lighting in nine facilities, re-roof of two facilities

**Florence School District 2:** \$670,000  
LED lighting in three facilities

### ConserFund Plus

**Financing type:** 70% Loan, 30% Grant

**Eligible applicants:** State agencies, public school districts, and public colleges or universities

**Maximum award value:** \$500,000 per state fiscal year

**All ConserFund Plus funds have been disbursed. The program will become available as loans are repaid. Therefore, no loans issued in 2020**

### Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan (EERL)

**Financing type:** Loan

**Eligible applicants:** Business and industry (utilities, 501(c)(3) organizations, and government entities may be eligible under certain circumstances)

**Maximum award value:** \$1,000,000

**No applications were received in 2020 due to COVID-19 impacts.**

### Mini-Grants

**Financing type:** Grant

**Eligible applicants:** State agencies, local governments, public school districts, public colleges or universities, and 501(c)(3) organizations

**Maximum award value:** \$5,000-\$10,000

**Benedict College:** \$10,000  
Electric vehicle and charging station

**City of Greenville:** \$10,000  
Solar photovoltaic system on community center

**Clemson University:** \$10,000  
Automatic control system for motorized blinds

**College of Charleston:** \$10,000  
Solar photovoltaic pavilion in outdoor greenspace

**Lee County School District:** \$10,000  
LED parking lot lighting in two facilities

**Richland School District 2:** \$10,000  
Biodiesel production expansion

**York School District 1:** \$10,000  
LED gym lighting in two facilities

## Tax Credits & Incentives

The Energy Office promotes incentives and verifies state tax credits to help make clean and efficient energy choices available to South Carolinians.

**2,500** energy efficiency labels distributed to manufactured home manufacturers

**\$74,250** of ENERGY STAR®  
manufactured home tax credits

**\$408,302** of transportation tax  
credits/incentives



# Technical Assistance

The Energy Office offers free energy assessments to state and local governments and other entities to help identify cost-effective energy conservation measures.

No in-person energy audits were performed due to COVID-19 concerns, but staff continued to provide technical assistance as requested on a case-by-case basis.

# Energy Data Resources

The Energy Office website hosts a central resource for South Carolina-specific data and information on the electric, natural gas, renewables, and transportation sectors. The website features charts, GIS maps, and data sets that can be used to see utility-specific customer counts, territory maps, renewable energy trends, revenue, and transportation fuel consumption.

# State Energy Plan

## Energy Efficiency Roadmap Stakeholder Initiative

Facilitated by the Duke University Nicholas Institute, the South Carolina Energy Efficiency Roadmap involved over 80 stakeholders from throughout the state in reviewing remaining energy efficiency recommendations from the 2016 State Energy Plan, reevaluating them according to current priorities, and identifying new opportunities. In early 2020, the SC Energy Efficiency Roadmap Report was finalized and released, which identified several potential paths forward to help stakeholders and citizens seize the energy efficiency opportunities within the state.

## Energy Saver Tool

The Energy Office completed and launched the Energy Saver Tool on the EnergySaver.SC.GOV website in 2020 to help consumers easily find energy-saving programs.

## EV Bolt Purchased

The 2016 State Energy Plan included a “Lead by Example” recommendation striving to increase transportation fuel efficiency and diversity. The Energy Office purchased a 2020 Chevrolet Bolt electric vehicle (EV) in March of 2020 with federal funding from the USDOE’s State Energy Program. As the first EV purchased by a state agency in South Carolina, the Energy Office is using this as a case study to encourage further adoption of alternative fuel vehicles in the state’s fleet.

## Reports & Publications

*South Carolina Energy Efficiency Roadmap*

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