

the energy **CONNECTION**

October 2023



October is **Energy Action Month**, and communities across South Carolina are celebrating with events and outreach initiatives to increase awareness about clean energy and energy efficiency. If you're looking for low-cost ways to save money on your energy bills, check out these 5 tips:

1. **Turn down the thermostat while you sleep.** You can [save up to 10%](#) on your heating and cooling bills each year just by turning your thermostat down by 7-10 degrees for eight hours a day.
2. **Draft-proof your outlets.** Electrical outlets can let in drafts from the outside that offset your apartment or home's heating and cooling efforts. If you feel any cold air coming through, or just see if your outlets themselves feel especially cold, use gaskets—little plastic plugs that fit in your outlets—to seal them up and keep the air out.

3. **Understand energy usage.** Reviewing your energy bill can help with understanding electricity usage. Try the [SaveOnEnergy usage calculator](#) to estimate where energy is consumed the most and determine ways to lower your usage.
4. **Avoid energy vampires.** “Energy vampires” are devices that consume electricity when left plugged in. Unplug items like phone chargers, toasters, and gaming consoles you might normally leave plugged in when they aren’t in use.
5. **Use rugs as insulation.** During cold months, putting rugs on hardwood floors can create more insulation and help keep your apartment or home warm.

Join the SC Energy Office and participate in Energy Action Month by having activities and joining in energy-saving measures all month! And be sure to check the SC Energy Office’s [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#) channels throughout the month for special tips and videos on how to save energy year-round.

Energy Office in Action



On August 24, the Energy Office hosted a visit with the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP)’s Director Dr. Henry McKoy and Director of Community Engagement Rose Dady. The day included meetings between Energy Office staff and SCEP staff followed by Stakeholder Engagement sessions where over 50 partners interacted with Dr. McKoy and Ms. Dady. The Energy Office guests also toured a series of energy projects around the Midlands of South Carolina. The South Carolina Energy Office receives funding from DOE’s State Energy Program to support its work to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean transportation throughout the state. [Read more about the visit on the National Association of State Energy Officials’ website.](#)



Energy Office staff participated in Columbia's PARK(ing) Day festivities on September 16th with activities focused on renewable energy. PARK(ing) Day is an annual open-source global event. Each year, citizens, artists, architects, and advocates for public space collaborate to design and build temporary parklet installations in metered parking spaces throughout the urban core, inspiring and challenging Columbians to reframe how we think about public space.

Webinar & Training Opportunities

Low-Cost No Cost Ways to Save on Your Energy Bills

Oct 13, 2023 – 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Eastern Time

[Register Here](#)

Looking for no cost or low-cost ways to save energy around your home? We're here to help! Energy upgrades are not always easy to conduct, especially for those unable to make home improvements to their dwelling. Join SC Energy Office staff members as they discuss 8 ways to save energy with simple tips and tricks that can help lower the cost of your energy bill. This interactive webinar will include a Q&A session. Please pre-submit questions.

Article Heading

Place article copy here. Be sure to make the articles short and concise as people tend not to read much more than a couple of paragraphs. Place article copy here.

[Text Link](#)

The Power of Partnership in Emissions-Reduction Planning with Local Governments

Oct 31, 2023 - 11:00 AM in Eastern Time

[Register Here](#)

Collaboration with local governments can catalyze meaningful progress in your organization's emissions-reduction planning, but aligning sustainability initiatives with local government ordinances can be challenging to navigate. Join this webinar to discover key

strategies for successful collaboration with local governments and learn how to create a sustainable future for your community.

Enhancing Energy Management: Using 50001 Ready to Achieve Decarbonization Goals

Nov 14, 2023 - 11:00 AM in Eastern Time

[Register Here](#)

The 50001 Ready Program and 50001 Ready Navigator tool are designed to help organizations combine energy efficiency and decarbonization activities into one systematic, continuous improvement process. Join this webinar to learn more about the program and explore how buildings and facilities can utilize integrated guidance and resources to save more and achieve energy efficiency and decarbonization goals sooner.



Resources

Save the Date: Pathways to Hazard Resilience

Join the SC Office of Resilience (SCOR) for an informational workshop to learn more about the Statewide Resilience Plan and how local and regional agencies and organizations can implement resilience in their communities. The meetings will provide an opportunity for local government officials and other stakeholders to meet SCOR staff and learn more about the recently released Statewide Resilience Plan, the history and mission of SCOR, and how the plan can assist local governments. Visit the [Event Website](#) to learn more. Space is limited at each location, so [Register Now!](#)

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Releases Funding Opportunity Announcement for the Transmission Siting and Economic Development Grants Program

DOE recently issued a funding opportunity announcement for the Transmission Siting and Economic Development (TSED) grant program, a new initiative designed to overcome state and local challenges to expanding transmission capacity while also supporting communities along major new and upgraded lines. This program will make available up to \$300 million in grants for states, tribes, and local governments to accelerate and strengthen electric transmission siting and permitting processes. [Learn more here.](#)



Articles

[U.S. Department of Energy and National Science Foundation Announce Geothermal INTERN Opportunity's First Cohort](#)

[State Agency-Led Group Figuring Out How to Keep Up with SC's Rising Energy Demands](#)

[Dominion wants to test new types of batteries — one based on rust](#)

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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