

FUNDING AND FINANCING

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

Energy efficiency projects, depending on their scope, can be expensive undertakings. However, a variety of funding options exist to help implement energy efficiency measures that will improve air quality. Whether you are working with residential, commercial, industrial, transportation or another area, many financial options are available including grants, low-interest loans, tax incentives and utility incentives.



Federal Funding and Financing

The [*Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Energy*](#) is a state-by-state database for energy efficiency incentives in the residential, commercial, and industrial industries as well as local, state and tribal governmental structures. The list is organized by program name and provides a brief description of the opportunity, the eligibilities and the funding administrator.

The [*grants.gov*](#) website is a comprehensive, interconnected governmental resource for those looking for additional grant information. The website provides high level overviews, current funding sources and directions on how to apply.

The [*U.S. Department of Economic Development Administration*](#) has created a website to provide economic development resources to individual states. The following information is shared through this website: local and state agencies, trade and research organizations, specific initiatives and supporting documentations.

The [*USDA Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)*](#) provides financial assistance to agricultural producers and small businesses in rural America to purchase, install, and construct renewable energy systems, make energy efficiency improvements to non-residential buildings and facilities, use renewable technologies that reduce energy consumption,

and participate in energy audits and renewable energy development assistance. The REAP program is comprised of the following components: the Renewable Energy System and Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loan and Grant Program and the Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grant Program.

The [*Diesel Emissions Reduction Act \(DERA\)*](#) provides funding through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to projects that will reduce emissions from diesel engines.

[*Here is more information*](#) on South Carolina's Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants.

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Utility Funding and Financing

Many utilities offer funding and financing options for energy efficiency programs. Please check with your utility to see if they have any programs that can help fund your projects. A few examples of utility programs are:

- Duke Energy Progress
[*Small Business Energy Saver*](#)
- Duke Energy Carolinas
[*Smart \\$aver Program*](#)
[*Energy Efficiency Services*](#)



South Carolina Funding and Financing

ConserFund and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loans

The South Carolina Energy Office administers two energy efficiency loan programs, *ConserFund* and *ConserFund Plus*, which are meant to help public entities and non-profit organizations with energy-related projects. The *Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan* (EERL) is administered by the Business Development Corporation and is geared toward private businesses as well as public entities and non-profit organizations which choose to undertake larger projects. In addition, projects that exceed \$500,000 may be able to receive assistance through the *SCSaves program*.

Commercial-Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Financing for South Carolina

The *South Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance* is promoting energy efficiency financing for owners of commercial, industrial, agricultural, non-profit, and multifamily buildings of five units or more. Legislation for *C-PACE*, S.668, was introduced in 2015, and has been approved by committee. It is continuing to work its way through the full Senate in 2016.

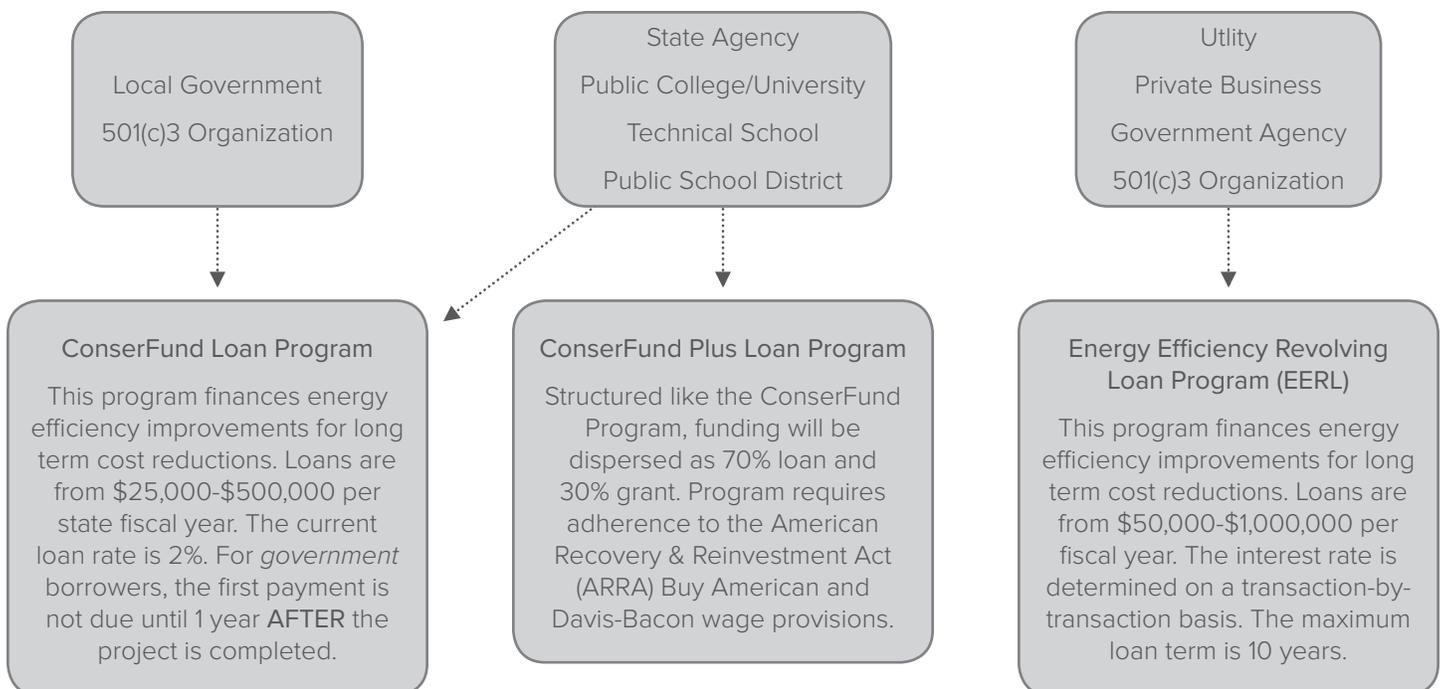
South Carolina Mini-Grants

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, Energy Office provides mini-grants every year. Eligible applicants include state agencies, local governments, public colleges, universities and technical colleges, K-12 public schools and 501(c) (3) non-profit organizations. The maximum award value is \$5,000. Cost sharing is not required, but leveraging of funds is encouraged in order to maximize the energy-related benefits of a project. Below are the forms available for the mini-grants:

- [Mini-Grant Solicitation document](#)
- [Mini-Grant Application document](#)
- [DUNS/SAM Form](#)
- [US DOE Terms and Conditions and NEPA Matrix](#)

South Carolina Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives

South Carolina offers a number of tax incentives for energy efficiency and fuel production. The Energy Office works in cooperation with the SC Department of Revenue to coordinate the application of these incentives. Tax incentives are available for alternative fuels, biofuels/biomass, businesses, homeowners, hydrogen fuel cells, manufactured homes and solar. [For a full list of incentives, click here.](#)



North Carolina Funding and Financing

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Grants

Many grants are awarded through the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. [A full list of available grants can be viewed by clicking here.](#) A sample of available grants are listed below:

Air and Recycling Grants:

- Mobile source emissions reduction
- Energy conservation
- Community waste reduction and recycling grant
- Abandoned manufactured home grant

Coastal Grants:

- Land use planning
- Coastal public access
- Sounds (APNEP)

Water Grants:

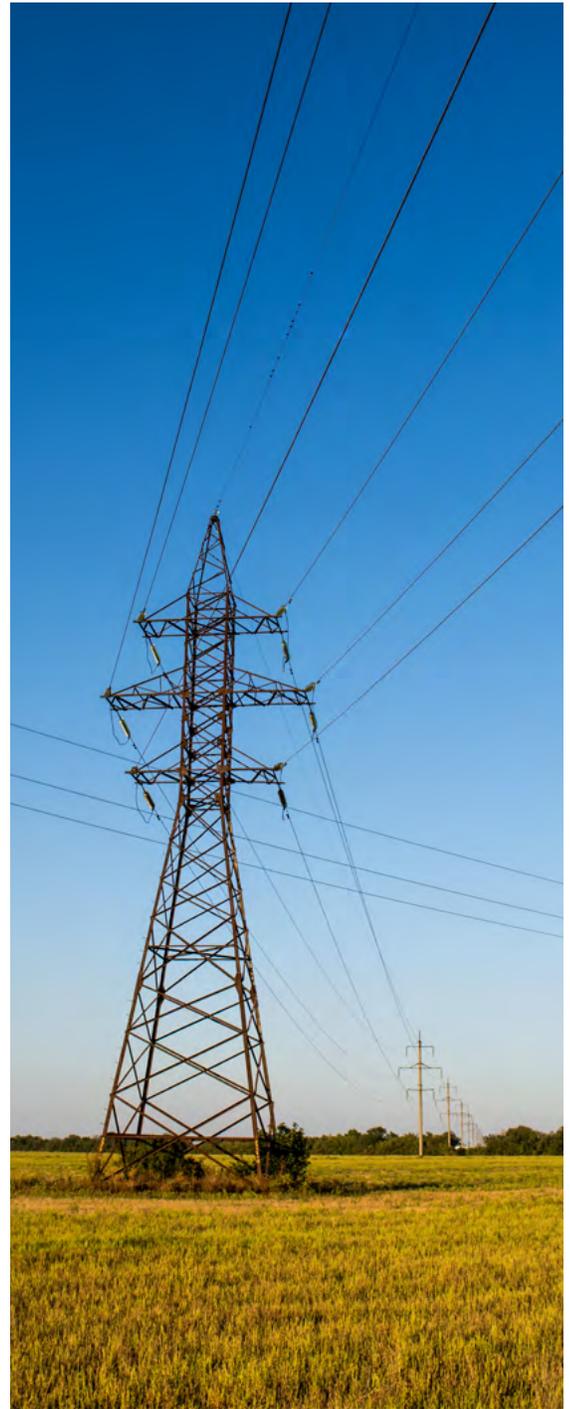
- Water resources development project grants
- Clean water management trust fund
- Clean water state revolving fund

CFAT Funding

The Clean Fuel Advanced Technology (CFAT) project is supported by the N.C. Department of Transportation with millions of dollars in federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding. The CFAT project is focused on reducing transportation related emissions in NC counties that have air quality concerns. The funding covers three broad areas: education and outreach, project funding, and recognition of exemplary activities. [For more information on CFAT funding, click here.](#)

Environmental Enhancement Grants Program

The NC Department of Justice awards annual environmental grants to improve the air, water and land quality of North Carolina. Specifically, the grants help restore and protect impaired, degraded or endangered surface waters, groundwater and other natural resources. The program also promotes long-term environmental enhancement programs to conserve and protect targeted natural areas. [For more details, click here.](#)



Nothing Compares

www.deq.nc.gov



www.energy.sc.gov