



2020 Mini-Grant Program provided funding for five high-impact demonstration projects

The Energy Office, a department of the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, awards mini-grants each year to fund several high-impact demonstration projects in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation. Applications for this highly competitive grant program are judged based on several factors including their expected energy savings and payback period, visibility of the project, and educational and/or demonstrational value. Funding for the Mini-Grant Program is provided through the US Department of Energy.

The Energy Office strives to direct funding toward more rural areas and organizations to provide additional support to complete projects like these. In addition to saving money and reducing energy consumption, Mini-Grant Program projects include a focus on educating the public.

2020 Mini-Grant Projects

With 2020 funding, the Energy Office awarded mini-grants to the Carolina Music Foundation, Charleston County School District, Georgetown County School District, the City of North Augusta, and the Pamplico Rescue Squad. Each project had its own unique project scope with different barriers to overcome.

Savings

Collectively, the five projects are anticipated to annually save \$16,314 in energy costs and 1,300 million British thermal units (MMBtus) of energy. Over the expected lifetime of the installed equipment, these projects are anticipated to save \$244,717 and over 20,471 MMBtus of energy. These energy savings are equivalent to the electricity used to power 512 homes for a year. Additionally, these energy savings result in an estimated 4,252 metric tons of greenhouse gases abated over the lifetime of the projects, which is equivalent to emissions from 925 passenger vehicles driven for one year.

2020 Mini-Grant Recipients

- Carolina Music Foundation
- Charleston County School District
- Georgetown County School District
- City of North Augusta
- Pamplico Rescue Squad

Anticipated Lifetime Savings

- \$244,717
- 20,471 MMBtus of energy—equivalent to the electricity used to power 512 homes for a year

More information on the Mini-Grant Program is available at: www.ENERGY.SC.GOV/incentives/grants.



Charleston County School District

Carolina Music Foundation

The Carolina Music Foundation replaced various incandescent lights with high-efficiency light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs in the Sigal Music Museum located in Greenville. To enhance awareness of this project by the public, the grantee incorporated the lighting into its Seven Centuries of Keyboard Instruments exhibition. The project is reducing Carolina Music Foundation’s energy consumption by over 10,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) annually and is expected to see a return on investment within two years.



Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District replaced linear fluorescent fixtures with LED fixtures at West Ashley Middle and High Schools and Wando High School. While school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic hindered the grantee’s ability to publicize the project, the improvements are still being used to teach students about energy conservation. In addition to improving lighting quality, this project is helping to reduce the District’s annual energy consumption by over 13,000 kWh.



Georgetown County School District

Georgetown County School District replaced linear fluorescent bulbs with LED bulbs at Pleasant Hill Elementary, located in Hemingway. The grantee was unable to present the project to their student body as planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the project was still advertised via the school district’s public television channel. This project is resulting in annual dollar savings of over \$7,000 for the District, with a return on investment expected within two years.



City of North Augusta

The City of North Augusta replaced an electric aeration system with a solar aeration system at Brick Pond Park. The aerator services a stormwater pond that requires aeration to keep the system healthy for wildlife and plants. The park hosts thousands of visitors every year, and the project has also been advertised to the public through the park’s various education programs and Earth Day events. The City is saving over 16,000 kWh annually by using solar power instead of an electric aerator.



Pamplico Rescue Squad

The Pamplico Rescue Squad installed a solar photovoltaic system on their facility. In addition to the mini-grant, the grantee received an incentive from Duke Energy to help fund the project. The project was promoted to the public via the grantee’s social media channels. The solar photovoltaic system is producing over 38,000 kWh annually and is saving Pamplico Rescue Squad over \$4,000 in electricity costs annually.

