State Energy Office

Energy

The State Energy Office is North Carolina's lead agency for energy programs and serves as the official source for energy information and assistance for consumers, businesses, government agencies, and policy-makers. The Arab Oil Embargo of 1973-74 was the impetus for the creation of the State Energy Division under the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs. Now operating under the N.C. Department of Administration, the State Energy Office is funded from Petroleum Violation Escrow funds and the U.S. Department of Energy. The State Energy Office, which uses no state-appropriated funds, administers programs in four primary areas:

- ***Energy efficiency and renewable energy*** for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, transportation and utility sectors
- ***Alternative fuels*** and alternative fuel vehicles
- ***Energy policy*** recommendations to the N.C. Energy Policy Council, N.C. General Assembly, the Governor's Office, and other state agencies
- ***Energy emergencies*** during natural disasters and supply disruptions

Mission

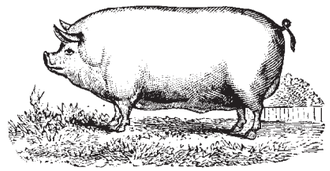
The State Energy Office promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy, striving toward a sustainable energy future. It accomplishes this by administering innovative programs, projects and services that inform, educate and involve energy consumers, producers and decision-makers. The State Energy Office organizes rapid responses to energy emergencies. It is recognized as North Carolina's primary, independent resource for energy information.

Programs

The State Energy Office provides services and benefits for small businesses, industry, local governments and individual citizens in seven major areas: agriculture, awareness and education, buildings, business and industry, renewable and alternative energy sources, sustainable communities and emergency response, and transportation. Currently, the State Energy Office operates more than 50 projects to meet the energy needs of North Carolinians.

Agriculture

Projects in agriculture include aquaculture, ethanol production from swine waste, energy efficiency in post-harvest production, and recycled animal waste as soil amendments.



Awareness and Education

The State Energy Office sponsors K-12 education in public schools through NEED (National Energy Education Development program) and the EV Challenge program. In addition, it publishes and disseminates brochures and reports; maintains a Web site; produces a monthly cable television program; and sponsors professional and technical trainings, workshops and seminars.

Ginny Byrne, NEED lead teacher, and her students from North Ridge Elementary School (Raleigh) participate in the NEED Youth Awards as winners for North Carolina Elementary School of the Year.

Buildings

Among the programs that address energy efficiency in building design and construction of school, state and local government buildings are the *High Performance Guidelines*. These guidelines provide a model for the design and construction of energy-efficient, cost-effective, durable and environmentally sound buildings. Other programs include energy code assessment and training, energy improvement loan programs, and energy efficiency in state construction.

Business and Industry

Projects in this area market and promote energy efficiency programs to corporations and businesses located in North Carolina. Topics include technical training in energy management and sustainability, including reuse and recycling.

Renewable and Alternative Energy Sources

The State Energy Office supports demonstration efforts in renewable energy resources - wind, hydropower, solar, biomass and geothermal. It also supports a number of programs that promote alternative fuel vehicles and the production and use of alternative fuels.

Wood, or biomass, is an alternative source of energy.
Photo by Warren Gretz, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Sustainable Communities And Emergency Response

In times of supply disruptions, natural disasters, or national/state emergencies, the State Energy Office helps to facilitate state emergency response and restore services. It also surveys, on a weekly basis, state propane and heating oil prices and ensures that consumers have adequate supplies. Other programs, like Rebuild America, demonstrate building retrofits, the preservation of downtown areas, and the use of safe, healthy, durable, comfortable and energy-efficient building practices in construction of affordable housing.

The State Energy Office helped support rebuilding efforts in the wake of Hurricane Floyd. Maggie Crawford stands in front of the "E-house" in Kinston. Built after her original house was destroyed, it was designed and constructed with energy-efficient technologies. *Photo by Advanced Energy Corporation*

Transportation

The transportation sector is the largest consumer of energy. The State Energy Office supports several programs, including the EV Challenge and the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program, that promote alternative fuel vehicles (AFV) such as electric, ethanol, compressed natural gas, propane and biodiesel. The office also works closely with the Motor Fleet Management Division in its AFV program.

Wayne Denton drives a Motor Fleet Management alternative fuel vehicle.

Sustainability

The State Energy Office promotes and practices environmental sustainability through its programs, services and activities. Because energy availability and costs affect each facet of state government operations, the State Energy Office seeks innovative, cooperative, energy-saving strategies with other agencies in the fields of transportation, industry and commerce, housing and construction, and natural and environmental resources. For example, the State Energy Office works with the State Construction Office to ensure new buildings and retrofits are designed energy efficiently and with the Motor Fleet Management Division to advance the use of alternative fuel vehicles in the state motor pool.

For more information, visit the Web site at http://www.energync.net or clip this form and place it in an envelope addressed to:

State Energy Office
1340 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1340

AREA OF INTEREST

____ Agriculture ____ Awareness and Education
____ Buildings ____ Business and Industry
____ Renewable and Alternative Energy Sources
____ Sustainable Communities and Emergency Response
____ Transportation

Name: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
Fax: _____
E-mail: _____
(if you would like to receive a copy of the electronic newsletter that the State Energy Office plans to publish beginning in 2002.)

Energy Policy Council

Created by the North Carolina Energy Policy Act of 1975, the Energy Policy Council is charged with overseeing the state's energy policies and providing recommendations for policy changes to the governor and General Assembly. Current members are:

Secretary Jim Fain
N.C. Department of Commerce

Commissioner Meg Scott Phipps
N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Secretary William G. Ross Jr.
N.C. Department of Environment & Natural Resources

Chairman Jo Anne Sanford
N.C. Utilities Commission

Secretary Gwynn T. Swinson
N.C. Department of Administration

Senator Hamilton C. Horton Jr.
General Assembly

Senator Eleanor Kinnaird
General Assembly

Representative Joe P. Tolson
General Assembly

Representative Nurham O. Warwick
General Assembly

Robert Burns, Petroleum Industry

Don K. Davis, Natural Gas Industry

Councilwoman Helen P. Gay, Elected Municipal Official

John L. Neufeld, Economic Analysis Sector

Mike Nicklas, Alternative Energy Sector

Ray Ogden, Industrial Energy Sector

Commissioner Dave Plyler, County Commissioner

Wade Pridgen, Electric Power Industry

Michael Shore, Environmental Protection Sector

Contact Us

The State Energy Office can assist homeowners, business owners, schools, public and private agencies, communities and individuals. For more information about the State Energy Office's programs and assistance, please contact:

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N.C. Department of Administration
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Raleigh, NC 27604-1376

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Raleigh, NC 27699-1340

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(919) 733-2953 - fax

E-mail: energy@ncmail.net

Web Site:
http://www.energync.net

State of North Carolina
Michael F. Easley, Governor

N.C. Department of Administration
Gwynn T. Swinson, Secretary
Carlton Myrick, Deputy Secretary for Government Operations

State Energy Office
Larry Shirley, Director

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Ensuring a sustainable energy future
for North Carolina