

State Energy Program 2006 Review

Overview

The State Energy Program (SEP), is a formula grant funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that provides Federal financial assistance and technical support to the States for energy programs. This funding program is flexible and diverse. Federal laws and regulations establish the program's purpose, set criteria for participation and define, in general terms, how funds may and may not be used. Each State proposes how it would use its share of funds to address the national criteria and the specific conditions within that State.

2006 State Energy Program Activities

State Energy Strategy

In early 2006 Governor Sonny Perdue directed the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority to lead an inclusive, statewide stakeholder process to develop a comprehensive State Energy Strategy for Georgia. The Strategy represents the vision and hard work of the 22 members of the Governor's Energy Policy Council, the hundreds of members of the public who provided input, and the staff of several State agencies that helped to draft it.

Over the course of the nine-month Strategy development process, GEFA and the Policy Council received and reviewed 1,185 written comments and 108 spoken comments, as presented during three public comments periods. GEFA published three drafts of the Strategy for public comment and revised each based on input.

The Strategy consists of eight chapters that cover broad topics such as energy reliability, energy supply, energy demand and energy and the environment. The final draft of the Strategy contains 36 policy objectives and 69 implementation strategies. In December 2006, the Governor's Energy Policy Council submitted to the Governor the first comprehensive State Energy Strategy for Georgia. The State Energy Strategy is available to the public at www.georgiaenergyplan.org.

State Government Activities

GEFA staff have participated and coordinated several energy related initiatives that foster cooperation and leadership by example throughout state government. Since 2000, GEFA staff has coordinated the Energy and Environment Task Force, a twelve agency member working group that meets quarterly to learn about various energy and environmental topics as well as opportunities to collaborate with one another. Topics in 2006 included: an overview of federal energy policy including the Energy Policy Act of 2005; Georgia's Energy Outlook and the Natural Gas Challenges Facing Industry; and Transportation Planning for Georgia.

GEFA provides staff support to the State Facilities Energy Council, a body created by Executive Order to manage all aspects of state government energy procurement and consumption. Accomplishments include coordinating the purchase, installation and management of utility tracking software that will monitor utility consumption and expense for over 4,000 state electricity accounts and 17,000 facilities. The Council has also developed a centrally operated natural gas purchasing strategy to minimize exposure to price fluctuations and is assessing opportunities to comprehensively incorporate energy efficiency into new and existing state-owned facilities.

Energy Emergency Preparation

As the state energy office, GEFA is responsible for developing and maintaining the Georgia's Energy Emergency Plan. GEFA works with partners in state government as well as with other states and federal agencies to ensure that coordinated planning and communications are established and maintained during an emergency situation. GEFA is committed to providing timely and high quality information during periods of energy shortages or disruptions.



Residential and Commercial Buildings

In Georgia, the combined residential and commercial sectors are responsible for more than 73 percent of electricity consumption – the majority of which is used in buildings. Through the State Energy Program, GEFA and its partners support a range of activities that advance energy efficiency in the building sector. In the building sector SEP activities include:

- Ensuring that Georgia has a strong energy code and well-trained code officials;
- Supporting one of the most effective and successful residential green building programs in the country (EarthCraft House);
- Assisting schools and other organizations to incorporate energy efficient practices in their new building design;
- Researching and testing cutting edge energy efficient housing design; and
- Continual improvement through information sharing and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Rebuild Atlanta

The Rebuild Atlanta program encourages the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy in new infrastructure and infrastructure improvements in the City of Atlanta. Rebuild Atlanta envisions an Atlanta whose practice of using energy in a sustainable, efficient manner throughout their operations will be a model for all cities in the coming decades. 2006 programs included a natural gas analysis, and the purchase of a utility management system which will house all natural gas and electricity bills for the city. Rebuild Atlanta has assisted four local fire stations in pursuing the nationally-recognized green building certification, LEED™. LEED™ is a nationally-recognized green building certification which rates the environmental performance of building sites and buildings on a point system using criteria from water use, to green space, to insulation. Also, Rebuild Atlanta has held several heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems training seminars for city facilities managers, and assisted the city in conducting a review of outdoor lighting needs and opportunities.

Agriculture

Georgia is one of our nation's leaders in agricultural production, leading output in areas including poultry and peanuts. The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Engineering Sciences is transforming Georgia's agricultural population into more efficient energy consumers through a number of programs. Among the program's 2006 accomplishments:

Improved Energy Efficiency in Animal Production Systems: This program emphasizes the use of variable speed drives on vacuum pumps in dairies. An energy audit was performed at the UGA Athens dairy with a predicted savings of 42,000 kWh per year (10% of current use.)

Pesticide Application: This program demonstrates to growers and commercial applicators ways to calibrate pesticide sprayers and reduce pesticide drift. The College conducts aerial fly-in clinics to improve aircraft spray efficiency and orchard air blast clinics to determine sprayer patterns and to adjust them. The aerial applicators participating in the clinics sprayed annually 800,000 acres of crop land. Participating in these clinics utilizing energy saving practices could save growers approximately \$440,000 annually.

Energy Efficiency for Fiber Board Manufacture

This program seeks opportunities for energy efficiency in Georgia industry. In 2006, GTRI has been working with the Georgia Pacific Corporation and Koch Industries. Through the collection and interpretation of utility data, energy audits, results focused workshops, and more, in 2006 the program was able to identify nine energy efficiency opportunities for one Georgia Pacific Koch Industries facility. The savings potential of these findings equaled 80,230 mmBtus of energy or \$3,240,000 annual cost savings.

