

Assistance Agencies

Customers may find they need help meeting their energy needs. Some utilities support programs in local energy offices throughout the state to help customers. The agencies listed below can help you apply for assistance.

Aiken/Barnwell Counties Community Action Commission, Inc.
Aiken, Barnwell, & Lexington counties
803-648-6836

Beaufort/Jasper Economic Opportunity Commission, Inc.
Beaufort & Jasper counties
843-470-4508

Berkeley-Dorchester Counties Economic Development Corporation
Berkeley & Dorchester counties
843-761-8244

Carolina Community Actions, Inc.
Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union, & York counties
803-329-5195

Charleston Co. Human Services Commission
Charleston county
843-723-9285

Chesterfield-Marlboro Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.
Chesterfield & Marlboro counties
843-320-9760

Darlington County Community Action Agency
Darlington county
843-332-1135

GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Inc.
Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, & Saluda counties
864-223-8434

Lowcountry Community Action Agency, Inc.
Colleton & Hampton counties
843-549-5576

O-C-A-B Community Action Agency, Inc.
Orangeburg, Calhoun, Allendale, & Bamberg counties
803-536-1027

Pee Dee Community Action Agency
Dillon, Florence, & Marion counties
843-678-3400

Piedmont Community Actions, Inc.
Cherokee & Spartanburg counties
864-327-4546

Sunbelt Human Advancement Resources, Inc. (SHARE)
Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, & Pickens counties
864-269-0700

Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.
Horry, Georgetown, & Williamsburg counties
843-234-4100

Wateree Community Actions, Inc.
Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Richland, & Sumter counties
803-775-4354

American Red Cross - Central South Carolina
803-540-1200

Abbeville County Memorial Hospital 864-366-5011

Anderson County
Anderson Interfaith Ministries Inc.
864-226-2273

Cherokee County
Iron City Ministries 864-839-9783

Red Cross of Chesterfield County 843-623-7395

United Ministries of Clarendon County
803-435-9086

Darlington County
Hartsville Interfaith Ministries 843-857-9003

Georgetown County
Helping Hands 843-527-3424

Greenville County
Golden Strip Emergency Relief & Resources Agency 864-688-2233
United Ministries 864-232-3303
Greer Relief & Resources Agency 864-848-5355

Lancaster County
HOPE in Lancaster Inc. 803-286-4673

Laurens County
United Ministries of Clinton 864-938-9070

Interfaith Community Services of Newberry County
803-276-5897

Oconee County
Seneca Presbyterian Church 864-882-0504

Pickens County
Clemson Community Care Inc. 864-653-4460

Spartanburg County
Greater Spartanburg Ministries Inc.
864-585-9371
Total Ministries of Spartanburg County
864-585-9167
Greer Relief & Resources Agency 864-848-5355
Helping Hands Ministries of Woodruff Inc.
864-476-2401

United Ministries of Sumter County 803-775-0757

York County
Fort Mill Care Center Inc. 803-547-7850
PATH Inc. 803-684-3992
Clover Area Assistance Center Inc.
803-222-4837

Department of Social Services
Chesterfield County 843-623-2147

Clarendon County 803-435-4303

Darlington County 843-332-2231

Dillon County 843-774-8284

Florence County 843-669-3354

Georgetown County 843-546-5134

Horry County 843-915-4700

Kershaw County 803-432-7676

Lee County 803-484-5376

Marion County 843-423-4623

Marlboro County 843-479-7181

Sumter County 803-773-5531

Williamsburg County 843-355-5411

The Salvation Army
Anderson County 864-225-7381

Chester County 803-324-5141

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, and Marlboro Counties 843-662-4461

Georgetown County 843-527-4479

Greenville County 864-235-4803

Greenwood County 864-229-3407

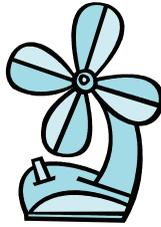
Richland County 803-765-0260

Spartanburg County 864-573-5493

Sumter County 803-775-9336

Be Energy Smart

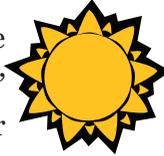
There are several simple and inexpensive measures that consumers can take to lower their cooling bills. Here are a few, and more can be found on the U.S. Department of Energy's website at www.doe.gov. Also, visit the ORS website at www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov.



- If possible, set the thermostat to a higher temperature and dress for warmer indoor temperatures. (Note: avoid high temperatures in homes with infants or with ill or elderly persons.)
- Don't set your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster.
- Make sure the air-conditioning unit is the proper size. A unit that is too big will perform less efficiently and effectively.
- Clean or replace filters and condenser coils on air conditioning units often.
- Use an interior fan with your window air conditioner to help spread cooled air more effectively.
- Do not place lamps or TV sets near the air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from nearby appliances.
- Avoid blocking cooling registers with furniture, draperies, or carpet.
- Seal leaks around doors, windows, and other openings, such as pipes or ducts, with caulking or weather-stripping.
- Keep window coverings closed during the day to block excess sunlight.
- Install whole-house fans that pull cool air through the house.
- Turn off lights and appliances when not in use.

Be Energy Safe

While raising the temperature in your home can save money, temperatures that are too high can be dangerous to your health.



- Fans will not prevent heat-related illness once indoor temperatures reach the high 90s.
- If your home does not have air conditioning, cool down at a public place for a few hours or take a cool shower.
- Contact your local health department to see if there are heat-relief shelters in your area.

Summer can also mean extreme weather, such as hurricanes. It is important to be prepared for possible power outages.

- Have an emergency plan.
- Have a disaster supply kit that includes water, non-perishable food, and emergency supplies. Supplies should be enough for at least three days.
- Use battery-powered flashlights and lanterns instead of candles, gas lanterns, or torches (which can cause a fire).

Practice these safety measures year-round:

- Don't overload an outlet with too many appliances.
- Keep electric appliances away from water sources.
- Replace damaged electric cords.
- Make sure that electric plugs fit securely into outlets.

Questions?

The ORS Can Help

The Consumer Services Division of the Office of Regulatory Staff can help by arranging payment plans with your electric and gas utility and by directing you to social service agencies that may have available funds to assist with energy costs.

Phone 803-737-5230 (Columbia, S.C.)
1-800-922-1531 (toll-free in S.C.)
803-737-5175 TTY (Columbia, S.C.)
1-800-334-2217 TTY (toll-free in S.C.)

Fax 803-737-4750

Web www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov

Hours 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Messages can be left on 24-hour
Consumer Services hotline
(closed state holidays)

About the ORS

The S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) was created in 2004 by the S.C. General Assembly.

The ORS represents the public interest of South Carolina in utility regulation with regard to rates, charges, service standards, facilities, and practices of the major utility industries - electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water/wastewater, and transportation - before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC), the court system, the S.C. General Assembly, and federal regulatory bodies. The ORS has responsibility for oversight of railroad safety and natural gas pipeline safety in the state.

In fulfilling this mission, the ORS strives to balance the concerns of the using and consuming public, the financial integrity of public utilities, and the economic development of South Carolina.

Summer Cooling Costs

A Consumer Advisory



Information for Consumers