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CHAPTER 52.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

ARTICLE 1.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**SECTION 48‑52‑10.** Short title.

This chapter may be cited as the “South Carolina Energy Efficiency Act”.

ARTICLE 2.

PLAN FOR STATE ENERGY POLICY

**SECTION 48‑52‑210.** Policy and purpose.

(A) It is the policy of this State to have a comprehensive state energy plan that maximizes to the extent practical environmental quality and energy conservation and efficiency, and minimizes the cost of energy throughout the State. To implement this policy there is adopted the Plan for State Energy Policy.

(B) The purpose of the plan is to:

(1) ensure access to energy supplies at the lowest practical environmental and economic cost;

(2) ensure long‑term access to adequate, reliable energy supplies;

(3) ensure that demand‑side options are pursued wherever economically and environmentally practical;

(4) encourage the development and use of indigenous, renewable energy resources;

(5) ensure that basic energy needs of all citizens, including low income citizens, are met;

(6) ensure that energy vulnerability to international events is minimized;

(7) ensure that energy‑related decisions promote the economic and environmental well‑being of the State and maximize the ability of South Carolina to attract retirees, tourists, and industrial and service‑related jobs;

(8) ensure that short‑term energy decisions do not conflict with long‑range energy needs;

(9) ensure that internal governmental energy use patterns are consistent with the State’s long‑range interests;

(10) ensure that state government is organized appropriately to handle energy matters in the best public interest;

(11) ensure that governmental energy‑related tax, expenditure, and regulatory policies are appropriate, and, wherever possible, maximize the long‑range benefits of competition.

ARTICLE 4.

STATE ENERGY OFFICE

**SECTION 48‑52‑410.** State Energy Office established; purpose.

There is established the State Energy Office within the State Budget and Control Board which shall serve as the principal energy planning entity for the State. Its primary purpose is to develop and implement a well‑balanced energy strategy and to increase the efficiency of use of all energy sources throughout South Carolina through the implementation of the Plan for State Energy Policy. The State Energy Office must not function as a regulatory body.

**SECTION 48‑52‑420.** Duties of State Energy Office.

In carrying out the purposes of the Plan for State Energy Policy, the State Energy Office shall:

(1) provide, in cooperation and conjunction with the Governor’s Office, informational and technical assistance programs to assist with residential, commercial, governmental, industrial, and transportation conservation and efficiency and to encourage the use of renewable indigenous energy resources;

(2) promote, in conjunction with the South Carolina Energy Research and Development Center and the Governor’s Office, continued and expanded energy research and development programs geared toward the energy needs of the State;

(3) evaluate and certify energy conservation products in cooperation with the South Carolina Energy Research and Development Center;

(4) in cooperation with the Governor’s Office and other appropriate entities, examine and consider the desirability and feasibility of mechanisms for tax incentives, low‑interest loans, and other financing means for cost‑effective energy consideration and efficiency and use of renewable and indigenous energy resources, and advocate their implementation when deemed appropriate;

(5) work with the Public Service Commission and other groups to promote appropriate financial incentives for electric and gas utilities to maximize the use of cost‑effective demand‑side options in meeting future energy needs;

(6) promote the adoption and use of energy efficient building codes and certification procedures for builders, heating and cooling specialists, and building inspectors;

(7) promote energy efficiency in manufactured housing;

(8) promote the use of less‑polluting transportation fuels, public transportation and other transportation alternatives, higher mileage and less‑polluting vehicles, and work with state and local entities through policy development, planning, and advocacy to encourage reduction in the need for vehicle travel;

(9) ensure that state government agencies establish comprehensive energy efficiency plans and become models for energy efficiency in South Carolina, and assist the Department of Education in achieving energy efficiency in public schools;

(10) collect currently published and publicly available energy data and provide energy information clearinghouse functions in conjunction with the Governor’s Office, and conduct long‑range energy planning;

(11) assist the Governor’s Office and the General Assembly in assessing the public economic and environmental interest on issues related to energy production, transportation, and use and provide information on the public interest in appropriate forums.

**SECTION 48‑52‑425.** Limitation on amount school districts must spend on energy conservation.

No public school district may be required to expend more than one hundred dollars a year to comply with the provisions of this chapter.

**SECTION 48‑52‑430.** Annual state energy action plan.

The State Energy Office shall annually submit to the Governor and Joint Legislative Committee on Energy a state energy action plan that includes, but is not limited to:

(a) activities by the State Energy Office to carry out the Plan for State Energy Policy;

(b) recommendations for long‑term quantitative and qualitative energy goals for the residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, governmental, and utility sectors, and measures of progress for these goals;

(c) identification of obstacles to efficiency for which legislative, regulatory, or other governmental remedies are appropriate.

**SECTION 48‑52‑435.** Prior approval required for studies of alternative energy usage or conservation measures.

In order to avoid duplicative studies, funds shall not be expended by state agencies for studies investigating alternative energy usage or conservation measures without prior approval of the State Energy Office and the Joint Legislative Committee on Energy.

**SECTION 48‑52‑440.** Energy Advisory Committee established; membership; terms of office; duties.

There is established the Energy Advisory Committee, whose members are appointed by the State Budget and Control Board, except as provided in item (14) of this section. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the State Budget and Control Board except that those appointed pursuant to item (14) shall serve for a term coterminous with that of their appointing authority. The committee is composed as follows:

(1) two representatives of investor‑owned electricity companies;

(2) two representatives of electric cooperatives;

(3) one representative of the South Carolina Public Service Authority, who shall serve ex officio;

(4) one representative of municipally‑owned electric utilities;

(5) one representative of publicly‑owned natural gas companies;

(6) one representative of investor‑owned gas companies;

(7) one representative of oil suppliers or dealers;

(8) one representative of propane suppliers or dealers;

(9) one representative of nonprofit public transportation providers;

(10) two representatives of industrial consumers;

(11) two representatives of commercial consumers;

(12) two representatives of individual consumers; one must be the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff or his designee, who shall serve ex officio;

(13) two representatives of environmental groups; and

(14) one at‑large member appointed by the Governor.

The Budget and Control Board shall elect one of the committee members to serve as chairman. The members of the Energy Advisory Committee are not eligible for per diem payments or for reimbursement for lodging or meals. The functions of the Energy Advisory Committee are advisory to the State Energy Office. The committee shall meet at least annually and at the call of the chair or at the request of at least six members to receive information on the activities of the State Energy Office and the formulation and implementation of the state energy action plan. It may comment and advise on the activities and the plan as considered appropriate by members of the committee. The State Energy Office may seek advice and guidance from the committee as considered appropriate by the director of the office.Members shall adopt rules governing meeting attendance and abide by these rules.

**SECTION 48‑52‑450.** Consolidation of energy‑related offices and programs.

Where possible, the State Energy Office shall encourage consolidating other offices or programs in state government related to energy, energy efficiency, and energy reliability.

**SECTION 48‑52‑460.** Effect of government restructuring on placement of State Energy Office.

The establishment of the State Energy Office within the State Budget and Control Board, as provided for in this part, must be evaluated if restructuring or reorganizing of state government takes place so as to identify and provide for the proper placement of the office upon restructuring or reorganizing.

**SECTION 48‑52‑470.** Funding for State Energy Office.

Funding for the State Energy Office, as created in this part, must be derived from existing financial resources available to the State and may be derived from oil overcharge funds. Personnel for the State Energy Office must be derived from the consolidation of existing state government personnel slots with no new FTE’s.

ARTICLE 6.

STATE GOVERNMENT ENERGY CONSERVATION

**SECTION 48‑52‑610.** Energy efficiency standards for state buildings.

The State Energy Office shall develop energy efficient code standards for state‑owned and leased buildings, including public school buildings. These standards must provide for life‑cycle cost‑effectiveness.

**SECTION 48‑52‑620.** State agencies and school districts to submit energy conservation plans and reports; metering of state buildings; annual compilation of reports.

(A)(1) Each state agency and public school district shall submit for approval to the State Energy Office an energy conservation plan for buildings in use on July 1, 2008, with a goal to reduce energy consumption by at least one percent annually for five consecutive years beginning July 1, 2008. The plan also must have a goal of ultimately reducing energy consumption for buildings in use on July 1, 2008, by twenty percent by July 1, 2020, relative to year 2000 levels. An agency shall implement all available cost‑effective energy‑saving measures to pursue these goals. In determining whether an energy‑saving method is cost effective, an agency should primarily consider the measure’s cost effectiveness over a five‑year period rather than within one fiscal year. The State Energy Office shall provide agency assistance and information needed to help meet these goals.

(2) The provisions of this section do not apply to a building designed, constructed or rehabilitated, and maintained in compliance with the Energy Independence and Sustainable Construction Act of 2007.

(B) In order to monitor energy consumption, the State Energy Office must determine those state buildings that require individual metering. Metering must be installed by the agency, the cost of which must be borne by the agency responsible for the utility bill for the building.

(C)(1) Each state agency and public school district annually shall submit energy conservation reports in the manner and at the times required by the State Energy Office.

(2) An agency that does not attain the annual reduction goals required by this section shall include in its report a detailed justification that it implemented all available, cost‑effective energy conservation methods.

(3) An agency that submits a report indicating it has implemented all available, cost‑effective energy‑saving measures as contemplated in subsection (A) is exempt from these reporting requirements for a year in which a subsequent report would indicate no status change. The agency must notify the State Energy Office that the agency is exempt under this item.

(D) Each public school district and state agency shall submit to the State Energy Office and each state agency shall include in its annual report to the State Budget and Control Board:

(1) activities undertaken implementing its energy conservation plan; and

(2) progress made in achieving its energy conservation goals.

(E) The State Energy Office shall compile the reports submitted pursuant to subsection (C) to be submitted annually, no later than December thirty‑first, to the General Assembly. The State Energy Office shall provide suggested formats for plans and goals that must be submitted pursuant to subsection (A), reporting forms for reports required by subsection (C), and all technical assistance necessary for state agencies and school districts to satisfy the requirements of these subsections.

(F) For purposes of this article:

(1) “Energy consumption” includes, but is not limited to, electricity, natural gas, fuel oil, and propane. Energy consumption must be measured using BTU’s for each gross square foot.

(2) “State agency” means a state government agency subject to the procurement code. For state institutions of higher learning, this definition only applies to those facilities greater than ten thousand gross square feet and does not include those facilities whose function is defined as athletics or research. For state technical colleges, this definition does not apply to those facilities whose primary function is to provide technical training and education in programs where significant energy consumption is necessary for the conduct of the academic program.

**SECTION 48‑52‑630.** Energy conservation savings; division; reinvestment.

An agency’s budget must not be reduced by the full amount of money saved through energy conservation measures. Appropriate financial incentives to encourage the reinvestment of energy costs savings into additional energy conservation areas must be provided. Energy savings must be divided among the agency, the general fund, and debt retirement of capital expenditures on energy efficiency. Agencies must be encouraged to reinvest their savings into energy conservation areas, where practical.

**SECTION 48‑52‑635.** State agency to carry forward and retain savings realized from energy conservation measures.

Pursuant to Section 48‑52‑630, an agency’s savings realized in the prior fiscal year from implementing an energy conservation measure as compared to a baseline energy use as certified by the State Energy Office, may be retained and carried forward into the current fiscal year. This savings, as certified by the State Energy Office, must first be used for debt retirement of capital expenditures, if any, on the energy conservation measure, after which time savings may be used for agency operational purposes and where practical, reinvested into energy conservation areas. The agency must report all actual savings in the energy portion of its annual report to the State Budget and Control Board.

**SECTION 48‑52‑640.** Energy conservation products marketed to State; certification and procurement requirements.

(A) A vendor of energy conservation products making an energy conservation claim and attempting to sell to state government shall submit the product to the State Energy Office for evaluation and certification.

(B) Energy conservation products certified by the State Energy Office may be purchased by a state agency subject to the state procurement code, but only if the State Energy Office considers use of the energy conservation product more cost efficient than an uncertified product over a five‑year period. The State Energy Office may certify only a product that meets or exceeds the Federal Energy Star standards designed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Energy.

(C) A state agency shall submit a disclaimer statement to the State Energy Office with its annual report stating that it did not purchase an energy conservation product that had not been certified by the State Energy Office.

(D) Each state agency head shall require the agency’s procurement officer or other person authorized to purchase supplies for the agency to replace an incandescent light bulb used by the agency with a compact fluorescent bulb when the incandescent bulb needs to be replaced, and if the agency determines use of a compact fluorescent bulb is more cost effective over a five‑year period than use of an incandescent bulb. A state agency may purchase incandescent bulbs for the agency if the agency verifies, in writing, that compelling circumstances require the use of incandescent bulbs.

**SECTION 48‑52‑650.** Revolving loan fund for energy conservation measures.

The State Energy Office shall establish a mechanism for a revolving loan fund for state agencies and political subdivisions of the State to use for energy conservation measures. Repayment may be from the savings in the entity’s utility budget.

**SECTION 48‑52‑660.** Lease purchase agreements with energy efficiency products vendors and utility companies; procurements for energy‑using goods and facilities.

(A) A state agency or political subdivision of the State may enter into lease purchase agreements for a duration of more than one year with vendors of energy efficiency products and utility companies. No funds disclaimer clause as provided for in Section 11‑35‑2030 is required in these contracts. Repayment is allowed from savings on the entity’s budget.

(B) Procurements under the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code for energy‑using goods and facilities must be procured through competitive sealed proposals pursuant to Section 11‑35‑1530 with life cycle cost criteria stated as an evaluation factor that must be addressed in a proposal.

**SECTION 48‑52‑670.** Guaranteed energy, water, or wastewater savings contracts.

(A) A governmental unit may enter into a guaranteed energy, water, or wastewater savings contract for a duration of more than one year with vendors of guaranteed energy, water, or wastewater savings programs. The financing for the guaranteed energy, water, or wastewater savings contracts may be provided by the vendor of the guaranteed energy, water, or wastewater savings program or by a third‑party financial institution or company. No funds disclaimer clause as provided for in Section 11‑35‑2030 is required in these contracts. Repayment may be made from savings on the agency utility budget.

(B) A governmental unit may award a guaranteed energy, water, or wastewater savings contract pursuant to Section 11‑35‑1530 or in the case of a governmental unit not subject to the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code, pursuant to other applicable procurement law if it includes a written guarantee that savings will meet or exceed the cost of energy, water, or wastewater conservation measures. A governmental unit may request that the State Energy Office review the methodology used by the guaranteed energy, water, or wastewater savings vendor to project and measure savings and future billable revenues. The State Energy Office shall deliver the written approval or shall deliver a written notice that it has determined not to deliver the approval within thirty days of the receipt of a guaranteed energy, water, or wastewater performance contract. The State Energy Office is authorized to charge a reasonable hourly rate for its review of guaranteed energy, water, or wastewater savings programs or guaranteed energy, water, or wastewater savings contracts, and the payment of the charges may be included in the financing for the guaranteed energy, water, or wastewater savings contract.

(C) For purposes of this section, “governmental unit” means a state government agency, department, institution, college, university, technical school, legislative body, or other establishment or official of the executive, judicial, or legislative branches of this State authorized by law to enter into contracts including all local political subdivisions including, but not limited to, counties, municipalities, public school districts, or public service or special purpose districts.

(D) For purposes of this section, “guaranteed energy, water, or wastewater savings contract” means a contract for the evaluation and recommendation of energy, water, or wastewater conservation measures and for implementation of one or more of these measures. The contract must provide that all payments, except obligations on termination of the contract before its expiration, must be made over time and the energy, water, or wastewater cost savings or billable revenue increases resulting from implementation of the energy, water, or wastewater conservation measures may be used to make payments for the energy, water, or wastewater conservation systems installed pursuant to guaranteed energy, water, or wastewater savings contracts. Annual revenues or savings from the guaranteed contract may be less than annual payments, if during the length of the contract aggregate savings occur as provided for by the terms of the contract.

(E) For purposes of this section “energy, water, or wastewater conservation measure” means a training program, facility alteration, or technology upgrade designed to produce measurable, long‑term reductions in energy, water, wastewater, or other consumption, personnel costs, operational costs including, but not limited to:

(1) insulation of the building structure or systems within the building;

(2) storm windows or doors, caulking or weatherstripping, multiglazed windows or doors, heat absorbing or heat reflective glazed and coated window or door systems, additional glazing, reductions in glass area, or other window and door system modifications that reduce energy consumption;

(3) automated or computerized energy control systems;

(4) heating, ventilating, or air conditioning system modifications or replacements;

(5) replacement or modification of lighting fixtures to increase the energy efficiency of the lighting system without increasing the overall illumination of a facility, unless an increase in illumination is necessary to conform to the applicable state or local building code for the lighting system after the proposed modifications are made;

(6) energy recovery systems;

(7) cogeneration systems that produce steam or forms of energy such as heat, as well as electricity, for use primarily within a building or complex of buildings;

(8) water and sewer conservation measures including, without limitation, plumbing fixtures and infrastructure;

(9) equipment upgrades that improve accuracy of billable revenue generating systems;

(10) automated, electronic, or remotely controlled systems or measures that reduce direct personnel costs; and

(11) such other energy, water, or wastewater measures as may provide measurable, long‑term operating costs reductions or billable revenue increases.

**SECTION 48‑52‑680.** Identification of “energy efficient” goods; energy conservation standards; building specifications.

(A) The State Energy Office shall assist the Materials Management Office as established in Section 11‑35‑810 and all governmental bodies defined in and subject to the Consolidated Procurement Code, by identifying goods which are “energy efficient” or for which the State can achieve long‑term savings through consideration of life cycle costs. The State Energy Office must compile a list of these goods. Before issuing any solicitation for these goods, the procuring agency shall notify the State Energy Office which shall assist in drafting or reviewing specifications for the goods being procured and which shall approve the specifications before issuing the solicitation. Upon request of a governmental body the State Energy Office shall provide assistance in evaluating bids or offers received in response to the solicitation to ensure that procurements are made in accordance with the purposes and policies of this article.

(B) The State Energy Office shall assist the Office of the State Engineer and all governmental bodies defined in and subject to the Consolidated Procurement Code by drafting energy conservation standards to be applied in the design and construction of buildings that are owned or lease/purchased by these governmental bodies. Before any construction contracts are bid under Section 11‑35‑3020, the State Engineer’s Office or the governmental body soliciting the bids shall review the plans and specifications to ensure that they are in compliance with the standards drafted by the State Energy Office. The State Energy Office shall provide assistance in reviewing these plans and specifications upon the request of the State Engineer’s Office or the affected governmental body.

(C) The State Energy Office shall provide the Office of Property Management of the Budget and Control Board, Division of General Services, information to be used in evaluating energy costs for buildings or portions of buildings proposed to be leased by governmental bodies that are defined in and subject to the Consolidated Procurement Code. The information provided must be considered with the other criteria provided by law by a governmental body before entering into a real property lease.

ARTICLE 8.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION ACT OF 2007

**SECTION 48‑52‑800.** Citation of article.

This article may be cited as the “Energy Independence and Sustainable Construction Act of 2007”.

**SECTION 48‑52‑810.** Definitions.

As used in this article:

(1) “Board” means the State Budget and Control Board.

(2) “Building project” means the design, construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of any inhabited physical structure and its associated project building site.

(3) “Commercial interior fit‑out” means interior design and installation by owners or tenants of new or existing office space, typically exclusive of structural components and core and shell elements.

(4) “GBI” means the Green Building Initiative.

(5) “Globes” means the level of a building’s sustainability and energy efficiency performance as determined by GBI’s Green Globes Rating System.

(6) “Green Globes Rating System” means the environmental building rating system established by the Green Building Initiative.

(7) “High‑performance building” means a building designed to achieve integrated systems design and construction so as to significantly reduce or eliminate the negative impact of the built environment.

(8) “LEED” means the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Rating System.

(9) “LEED Silver standard” means the Silver standard as set forth by USGBC’s LEED Green Building Rating System.

(10)(a) “Major facility project” means:

(i) a state‑funded new construction building project in which the building to be constructed is larger than ten thousand gross square feet;

(ii) a state‑funded renovation project in which the project involves more than fifty percent of the replacement value of the facility or a change in occupancy; or

(iii) a state‑funded commercial interior tenant fit‑out project that is larger than seven thousand five hundred square feet of leasable area.

(b) “Major facility project” does not mean:

(i) a building, regardless of size, that does not have conditioned space as defined by Standard 90.1 of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air‑Conditioning Engineers;

(ii) a public kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, secondary school, junior high school, or high school, all as defined in Section 59‑1‑150;

(iii) a correctional facility constructed for the Department of Corrections, Department of Mental Health, or Department of Juvenile Justice;

(iv) a building project funded by the State Ports Authority, the Coordinating Council for Economic Development, or the State Infrastructure Bank; or

(v) a building project funded by the Department of Health and Environmental Control in which the primary purpose of the building project is for the storage of archived documents.

(11) “Renovation project” means a building project involving the modification or adaptive reuse of an existing facility.

(12) “Third‑party commissioning agent” means a person accredited by the USGBC or GBI, with expertise in building system performance, who will analyze, evaluate, and confirm the proper function and performance of a high performance building, its systems, equipment, and indoor air quality, and who did not participate in the original certification of the major facility project or renovation project.

(13) “USGBC” means the United States Green Building Council.

**SECTION 48‑52‑820.** Promoting effective energy and environmental standards for buildings; adoption of policies and procedures.

The purpose of this section is to promote effective energy and environmental standards for construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of buildings in this State, improving the state’s capacity to design, build, and operate high‑performance buildings and creating new jobs and contributing to economic growth and increasing the state’s energy independence. To accomplish the objectives of this article, the State shall adopt policies and procedures that:

(1) optimize the energy performance of buildings throughout this State;

(2) increase the demand for environmentally preferable building materials, finishes, and furnishings;

(3) improve environmental quality in this State by decreasing the discharge of pollutants from state buildings and their manufacture;

(4) create public awareness of new technologies that can improve the health and productivity of building occupants by meeting advanced criteria for indoor air quality;

(5) improve working conditions and reduce building‑related health problems;

(6) reduce the state’s dependence on imported sources of energy through buildings that conserve energy and utilize local and renewable energy sources;

(7) protect and restore this state’s natural resources by avoiding development of inappropriate building sites;

(8) reduce the burden on municipal water supply and treatment by reducing potable water consumption;

(9) reduce waste generation and manage waste through recycling and diversion from landfill disposal;

(10) establish life cycle cost analysis as the appropriate and most efficient analysis to determine a building project’s optimal performance level;

(11) ensure each building project’s systems are designed, installed, and tested to perform according to the building’s design intent and its operational needs through third‑party, post‑construction review and verification; and

(12) authorize the board to pursue ENERGY STAR designation from the United States Environmental Protection Agency to further demonstrate a building project’s energy independence.

**SECTION 48‑52‑830.** Certification standards for major facility projects.

(A)(1) All major facility projects in this State, as defined in Section 48‑52‑810(10)(i), must be designed, constructed, and at least certified as receiving two globes using the Green Globes Rating System or receiving the LEED Silver standard. All major facility projects in this State, as defined in Section 48‑52‑810(10)(a)(ii) or (iii), must be analyzed using a life cycle cost analysis comparing the cost and benefits of designing, constructing, maintaining, and operating the facility at the LEED Silver standard or two globes standard, or better, with certification; normal industry and regulatory standards as applicable; or some standard between the two that causes the project to be designed and constructed in a manner that achieves the lowest thirty‑year life cycle cost.

(2) In obtaining certification as receiving two globes using the Green Globes Rating System, a major facility project must earn at least twenty percent of the available points for energy performance under “C.1.1 Energy Consumption”. In obtaining certification as meeting the LEED Silver standard, a major facility project must earn at least forty percent of the available points for energy performance under “EA Credit 1: Optimize Energy Performance”. The State Engineer’s Office may waive the requirements of this item for a proposed major facility project should it determine that the costs of meeting this item are not economically feasible. The State Engineer’s Office shall notify the board of the reason for the issuance of a waiver.

(B) The board may petition the General Assembly to require all major facility projects be certified to a high‑performance building rating system standard in addition to or instead of the systems provided in this chapter. However, any alternate rating system adopted by the General Assembly must be no less stringent than the systems provided in this chapter.

(C) The board shall administer and enforce the provisions in this article. Also, the board may adopt rules and promulgate regulations to comply with the goals set forth in Section 48‑52‑820.

**SECTION 48‑52‑840.** Certification using LEED rating system; inspection and monitoring of environmental benefits.

(A) In order to become certified using a LEED rating system, a major facility project shall register with USGBC prior to filing the first building construction permit application. USGBC shall have the sole discretion in determining whether a major facility project receives certification.

(B) All major facility projects that were certified at the LEED Silver standard or higher must be inspected by a third‑party commissioning agent in the fifth, tenth, and fifteenth year following certification. The third‑party commissioning agent shall determine whether the building is operating at the standard to which it was originally designed and certified. The third‑party commissioning agent shall report its findings to the State Engineer. The report must include, but is not limited to, the building’s savings on energy and water, the level of its indoor air quality, the existing system’s function and performance, problems with the system, and whether the system’s performance meets the facility’s requirements. If the State Engineer determines that the building is not operating within the spirit of this article, the State Engineer may take appropriate measures to bring the building into compliance.

(C) The board shall develop and implement a process to monitor and evaluate the energy and environmental benefits associated with each major facility project designed, constructed, or renovated pursuant to this article. The monitoring and evaluation of each major facility project shall commence one year after certification of the major facility project and shall continue for nineteen years thereafter. All data concerning energy and environmental benefits collected pursuant to this section must be made available to the board to be compiled and submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to Section 48‑52‑860.

**SECTION 48‑52‑850.** Certification using Green Globes Rating System; inspection and monitoring of environmental benefits.

(A) In order to become certified using a Green Globes Rating System, a major facility project shall register with GBI prior to filing the first building construction permit application. GBI shall have the sole discretion in determining whether a major facility project receives certification.

(B) All major facility projects that were first certified as receiving two globes using the Green Globes Rating System must be inspected by a third‑party commissioning agent in the fifth, tenth, and fifteenth year following certification. The third‑party commissioning agent shall determine whether the building is operating at the standard to which it was originally designed and certified. The third‑party commissioning agent shall report its findings to the State Engineer. The report must include, but is not limited to, the building’s savings on energy and water, the level of its indoor air quality, the existing system’s function and performance, problems with the system, and whether the system’s performance meets the facility’s requirements. If the State Engineer determines that the building is not operating within the spirit of this article, the State Engineer may take appropriate measures to bring the building into compliance.

(C) The board shall develop and implement a process to monitor and evaluate the energy and environmental benefits associated with each major facility project designed, constructed, or renovated pursuant to this article. The monitoring and evaluation of each major facility project shall commence one year after certification of the major facility project and shall continue for nineteen years thereafter. All data concerning energy and environmental benefits collected pursuant to this section must be made available to the board to be compiled and submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to Section 48‑52‑860.

**SECTION 48‑52‑860.** Annual report; contents.

The board annually shall submit a report regarding major facility projects to the General Assembly that includes:

(1) the number and types of buildings designed and constructed;

(2) the level of certification of each building designed, constructed, or renovated;

(3) actual savings in energy costs;

(4) a description of all potential environmental benefits, including, but not limited to, water resources savings and the reduction of waste generation;

(5) the ability of buildings to continue to operate at the standard to which it was originally certified;

(6) the reason for any waiver granted by the State Engineer’s Office; and

(7) any conflicts or barriers that hinder the effectiveness of this article.

ARTICLE 10.

ENERGY EFFICIENT MANUFACTURED HOMES INCENTIVE PROGRAM

**SECTION 48‑52‑870.** Purpose of program; adoption of rules.

(A) The Energy Efficient Manufactured Homes Incentive Program is established to provide financial incentives for the purchase and installation of energy efficient manufactured homes in South Carolina. Any person who purchases a manufactured home designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Energy as meeting or exceeding each agency’s energy saving efficiency requirements or which has been designated as meeting or exceeding such requirements under each agency’s ENERGY STAR program from a retail dealership licensed by the South Carolina Manufactured Housing Board for use in this State is eligible for a nonrefundable income tax credit equal to seven hundred fifty dollars. The credit may be claimed beginning July 1, 2009, and no later than July 1, 2019.

(B) The South Carolina Energy Office shall adopt rules pursuant to this article to develop tax credit applications and administer the issuance of tax credits and must track and report on the fiscal and energy impacts of this program.