



## North Carolina Department of Administration

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Britt Cobb, Secretary

Larry E. Shirley, Director  
State Energy Office

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Date: June 22, 2007  
Release: Immediate

Contact: Sunny Nelson  
Phone: 919-733-1922

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### **STATE ENERGY OFFICE PROGRAM NAMED REGIONAL FINALIST FOR COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS INNOVATIONS AWARD**

**RALEIGH** – The State Energy Office (SEO) of the N.C. Department of Administration announced today that its Utility Savings Initiative (USI), a program that aims to reduce energy consumption and costs in state agencies and public universities by 20 percent in five years, has been named a regional finalist for a 2007 Council of State Governments (CSG) Innovations Award.

CSG is a national organization that serves the executive, judicial and legislative branches of state government through leadership education, research and information services. The annual Innovations Award highlights programs and initiatives that provide insight into major policy trends for states, commonwealths and territories on a national and regional basis.

USI was one of 10 programs named by CSG as a regional finalist out of the 113 nominations. The Southern Regional Innovations Selection Committee will determine two final award winners at the 61st Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference in mid-July.

Created in 2002, USI has saved North Carolina taxpayers more than \$66 million in avoided utility costs in state facilities through a comprehensive approach that includes efficiency measures, rate negotiations, billing error corrections and performance contracting projects.

“We are honored that USI has been recognized by such a leading national organization,” said Larry Shirley, SEO director. “USI is an outstanding example of how the State of North Carolina is a wise steward of our taxpayer dollars and natural environment.”

The SEO is North Carolina’s leading independent resource for information and consumer programs that promote energy efficiency, renewable energy and alternative fuels for a sustainable energy future.

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**Mailing Address:**  
1340 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1340

**Telephone (919) 733-2230**  
Fax (919) 733-2953  
[www.energync.net](http://www.energync.net)

**Location:**  
1830A Tillery Place  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604

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