



## North Carolina Department of Administration

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Britt Cobb, Secretary

Larry E. Shirley, Director  
State Energy Office

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Contact: Larry Shirley  
Phone: 919-733-2230

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### STATE ENERGY OFFICE RECEIVES SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

**RALEIGH** – The State Energy Office (SEO) in the N.C. Department of Administration, the state’s lead agency for energy programs and resources, has received the 2007 Sustainability Award from Sustainable North Carolina. The highly competitive award recognized the SEO for “Best Practices in the Public or Nonprofit Sector” through its Utility Savings Initiative for State Facilities. This energy efficiency program for state agencies has resulted in \$66 million in avoided utility costs since its inception in 2002.

“This is the second major award to recognize the Utility Savings Initiative in the last two months,” said SEO Director Larry Shirley. “The strong support of the governor, state agencies and the university system has been critical to its success. By working together, we have shown that energy and water use is a manageable and controllable expense. We expect to see even more savings in the future.”

In August, the SEO received the 2007 Regional Innovations Award by the Council of State Governments, which identified the Utility Savings Initiative as one of two most innovative state programs in the South.

Sustainable North Carolina is a nonprofit agency working to encourage businesses, communities and nonprofit agencies to adopt sustainable practices that enhance economic prosperity, social responsibility and environmental stewardship. Formerly known as Save Our State, the group is the primary sponsor of the N.C. Sustainable Business Council, which brings together some of the state’s leading businesses to advance sustainable economic development.

Now in its fifth year, the Utility Savings Initiative received a boost with the passage of legislation by the 2007 General Assembly that requires all state agencies and universities to cut their energy consumption by 20 percent by 2010 and 30 percent by 2015. The new law also calls for all new state buildings to be constructed at a level that is 30 percent more energy efficiency than current standards.

For more information about the State Energy Office and its Utility Savings Initiative, contact Larry Shirley at 919-733-2230.

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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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