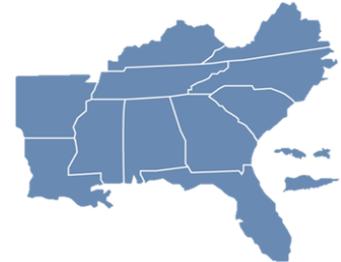


## SEEA Policy Team Highlights

January 4, 2013

### ***Cheers to a New Year of Efficiency in 2013!***

As SEEA brings in New Year, we share with you a few of the SEEA Policy Team highlights to acknowledge the progress of the past few months, and also set the stage for the celebration of successes to come. Thank you to all of our partners, who collaborated to make this work possible.



### **I. Building Energy Codes**

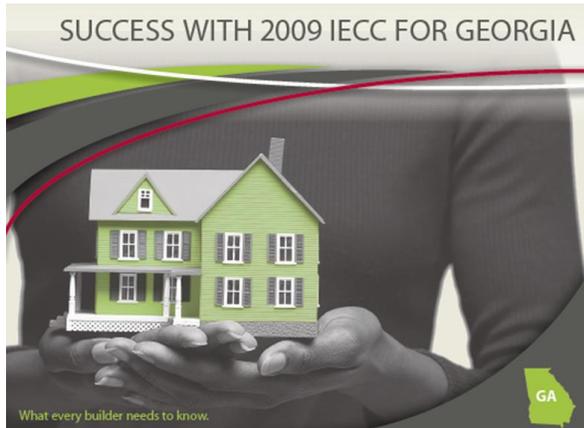
#### **Energy Foundation Funding Awarded to SEEA's Building Energy Codes Program**

On November 1, 2012, the Energy Foundation awarded funding to SEEA's Building Energy Codes Program to deploy in 2013. SEEA's receipt of the award reinforces the positive impact SEEA is making on building energy codes adoption, implementation and compliance in the Southeast. In 2012, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana and South Carolina adopted new, statewide energy codes. Hundreds of Southeastern builders and code officials benefited from SEEA trainings and implementation materials. Additionally, meaningful, unique partnerships were fostered with organizations like the Home Builders Association of South Carolina, Arkansas State Energy Office, Building Official Association of Florida, Tennessee Valley Authority and Georgia Power. SEEA looks forward to leveraging this momentum and fostering additional building energy code advancement in 2013.

#### **Giving Builders the Tools for Success**

SEEA spearheaded a new resource that gives builders a key tool for successful implementation of the 2009 IECC. In partnership with Advanced Energy, SEEA created a "Success" curriculum for the 2009 IECC that simplifies the energy code with a user-friendly manual and training materials, along with targeted, state-specific resources for South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. The Home Builders Association of South Carolina and Home Builders Association of Georgia (HBAG) both championed this initiative, playing an integral role in the development of the "Success" curriculum for their state. Due in large part to their involvement, the development of the 2009 IECC, South Carolina and Georgia "Success" manuals is complete, and the Alabama "Success" manual is currently underway. Progress Energy, Appleblossom Energy and the South Carolina Energy Office served as essential partners for funding this initiative in South Carolina. Notably, Georgia Power is providing funding for "Success" resources and training in Georgia, with classes scheduled to begin in the spring of 2013. SEEA negotiated competitive printing rates to make this resource accessible to all, including volume discounts through the Mimeo Marketplace. To purchase or preview the "Success" manuals, visit the following link:

<https://marketplace.mimeo.com/SEEA>. Below is the cover and a sample page from the Georgia "Success" Manual:



### Georgia DET Verifier Program Becomes a National Model

SEEA recently partnered with the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) to implement best practices from Georgia’s Duct and Envelope Tightness (DET) Verifier Program in Illinois. Georgia’s DET Verifier Program is an essential component of addressing the mandatory testing requirement for the Georgia Amendments to the 2009 IECC, and is serving as a useful “how to” model for other states that have mandatory testing requirements through the 2009 or 2012 IECC. SEEA also held a webinar on December 20, 2012, at the request of other Regional Energy Efficiency Organizations to provide them with the necessary information to implement this program, where well-suited, in their respective states.

### 2013 Energy Code Adoption Initiatives

Statewide 2009 IECC adoption efforts are underway in Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee, along with ASHRAE 90.1-2007 legislation in Mississippi and 2012 IECC adoption efforts in Virginia and Florida. SEEA continues to serve as an integral resource for these initiatives, along with local adoption efforts, working closely with state energy offices, local and national organizations and other key stakeholders to educate decision makers on benefits of energy codes to consumers and energy security.

### SEEA Launches Southeast Energy Codes Coalition

SEEA launched the Southeast Energy Codes Coalition (SECC) on October 24, 2012. SECC is a group of diverse state, regional and national organizations that promote building energy codes in the Southeast. This initiative will foster increased coordination and effectiveness for energy code activities in the region by making the most of collective insights. Additionally, the group will convene targeted working groups based on prioritized areas of needed expertise, such as state adoption efforts and utility involvement in building energy code advancement. Member organizations include: 25 x '25, Advanced Energy, Alliance for Affordable Energy, American Chemistry Council (ACC), Building Codes Assistance Project (BCAP), CORE USA, Mathis Consulting, National Association of State Energy Offices (NASEO), North Carolina Energy Efficiency Alliance (NCEEA), North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA), Responsible Energy Code Alliance (RECA), Sierra Club, South Carolina Coastal Conservation League (SCCCL), Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) and Southface Energy Institute.

## II. State Energy Offices

### ADECA Kicks Off Development of Alabama State Energy Plan



The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) kicked off the development of a comprehensive energy plan for the state of Alabama in December 2012. Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP is the international consulting firm with U.S. offices based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin that will be leading the initiative. This project will work in partnership with the state's Energy Efficiency Subcommittee of the Permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Energy Policy, utilities and other key stakeholders to define clear achievable goals, and develop strategies and an action plan to guide Alabama in the development of energy programs, projects and policy priorities. ADECA and Baker Tilly have invited stakeholders to participate in an energy survey and will also be hosting Alabama Energy Plan Stakeholder Outreach Meetings to lay the initiative's groundwork and strategic direction.

### ACEEE Launches Mississippi Energy Efficiency Study in Partnership with SEEA and MDA



The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) launched a Mississippi Energy Efficiency Policy and Program Potential Study in partnership with SEEA and the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), Energy and Natural Resources Division in December 2012. ACEEE will prepare a policy and program potential study, focusing on electricity only, which will include specific policy and program opportunities that state and local governments can pursue and that utilities can deploy. The study will target the analyses of specific utility programs and policy opportunities to be implemented through legislative, regulatory, or executive action. ACEEE is scheduling stakeholders meetings at the end of January and early February 2013 to engage key stakeholders as a part of this process.

## III. Public Service Commissions

### Louisiana PSC Finalizes Energy Efficiency Rules



The Louisiana Public Service Commission passed landmark energy efficiency rules that set the stage for numerous benefits statewide, including ratepayer savings and small business acceleration on December 12, 2012. This standard—one of the first of its kind in the Southeast—was adopted following three years of dialogue spearheaded by the Alliance for Affordable Energy, Sierra Club and SEEA. A copy of the motion for adopting these rules can be found at the following link:

<http://www.seealliance.org/Portals/0/pdfs/motions%20and%20cards.pdf>.

### Mississippi PSC Releases EIS on Proposed Energy Efficiency Rules

The Mississippi Public Service Commission (PSC) re-issued an Order for proposed Conservation and Energy Efficiency Programs and released the Economic Impact Statement (EIS) detailed in [http://www.psc.state.ms.us/InsiteConnect/InSiteView.aspx?model=INSITE\\_CONNECT&queue=CTS\\_ARC\\_HIVEQ&docid=298352](http://www.psc.state.ms.us/InsiteConnect/InSiteView.aspx?model=INSITE_CONNECT&queue=CTS_ARC_HIVEQ&docid=298352) (beginning on PDF pages 4 and 24, respectively) on November 15, 2012, as a part

of the proposed Energy Efficiency Rules in Docket 2010-AD-2. Comments on the proposed Energy Efficiency Rules and EIS are due before February 1, 2013, and a public hearing will be scheduled at a later date. SEEA will continue to serve as a consultant to the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), Energy and Natural Resources Division through a Stimulating Energy Efficiency Action cooperative agreement with the U.S. DOE to promote at least a one percent annual energy reduction goal in Mississippi. SEEA's work includes providing expertise for comments on the proposed Energy Efficiency Rules and EIS and continued support for the passage of these proposed Energy Efficiency Rules.

## IV. Utilities

### TVA Explores Opportunity of Building Energy Codes



The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) remains a leader in energy efficiency programs in the Southeast. In addition to their competitive energy efficiency targets, TVA recently invited SEEA to host energy code workshops for their commercial and residential teams in December 2012. SEEA provided the residential overview and invited Southface to be the commercial trainer. These workshops outlined the basics of energy codes, highlighting key energy efficiency measures within ASHRAE 90.1-2010 and the 2012 IECC for consideration of above-code programs as a part of TVA's energy efficiency portfolio. SEEA looks forward to continuing to serve as a partner with TVA on energy efficiency opportunities.

### Georgia Power Launches 2013 IRP Planning Process



The Georgia Public Service Commission held its last Georgia Power Demand Side Management Working Group meeting on December 6, 2012, before the launch of its 2013 Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process in January. Georgia Power is consistently meeting their energy efficiency program targets, and SEEA continues to serve as a stakeholder in their Demand Side Management Working Group meetings, providing input and expertise. But we will not be formally intervening in the 2013 IRP process.

### Progress Energy Carolinas Releases 2012 IRP

Progress Energy Carolinas released their 2012 IRP in November 2012, reflected in the Public Service Commission of South Carolina's Docket No. 2012-8-E, as follows:

<http://www.energy.sc.gov/publications/ProgressEnergyResource%20Plan2012.pdf>.

***Thank you for your interest in SEEA and we hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season!***

**For more information on policy initiatives, contact Jenah Zweig at [jzweig@seealliance.org](mailto:jzweig@seealliance.org).**

