

U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
EERE News

Recovery Act Announcement: Obama Administration Announces \$3.2 Billion in Funding for Local Energy Efficiency Improvements

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Vice President Joe Biden and Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced plans to invest \$3.2 billion in energy efficiency and conservation projects in U.S. cities, counties, states, territories, and Native American tribes. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, funded by President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will provide formula grants for projects that reduce total energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency nationwide.

The funding will support energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits in residential and commercial buildings, the development and implementation of advanced building codes and inspections, and the creation of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements. Other activities eligible for use of grant funds include transportation programs that conserve energy, projects to reduce and capture greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy installations on government buildings, energy efficient traffic signals and street lights, deployment of Combined Heat and Power and district heating and cooling systems, and others.

To ensure accountability, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will require grant recipients to report on the number of jobs created or retained, energy saved, renewable energy capacity installed, greenhouse gas emissions reduced, and funds leveraged. Funding is based on a formula that accounts for population and energy use.

Cities and counties will receive nearly \$1.9 billion under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, and states and territories will receive nearly \$770 million. States will receive and administer funds for those counties and cities that are not large enough to qualify for direct DOE funding. More than \$54 million will flow directly to Tribal governments.

Up to \$456 million of this funding is planned to be made available under a separate competitive solicitation for local energy efficiency projects. That solicitation will be released at a later date.

Today's announcement is in addition to DOE's recent release of nearly \$8 billion to support weatherization and state energy projects.

A detailed breakdown of the funding by state, county, city and tribal government is available on the [DOE's Recovery Act Web site](#).

Following today's announcement at the White House, Secretary Chu and Labor Secretary Hilda Solis are visiting the Community College of Allegheny County in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Workers at the facility are being trained for the kinds of "green jobs" that the city and county are investing in—ranging from construction and facility upgrades of green buildings to installation of energy efficient street lights to building energy audits. Secretaries Chu and Solis will highlight the city and county efforts as a model for other communities and an example of how this funding can create local jobs and save energy.

More information on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program is available on the [Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program's Web site](#).

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