

Accelerating Adoption of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

The DOE/EERE Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program (WIP) increases awareness and accelerates adoption of practices and technologies that cost-effectively increase energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy, and oil displacement. It develops information and tools that remove specific market barriers to a more energy-efficient economy.

The program funds energy projects as well as technical assistance and tools for state governments (including U.S. Territories of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands), community action agencies, utilities, Indian tribes, and energy and economic development programs overseas.

Weatherization Assistance Program

The Weatherization Assistance Program works in partnership with states and more than 900 local agencies to provide weatherization services to approximately 100,000 low-income families annually.

Since the inception of the program in 1976, it has provided services to more than 6.3 million homes and produced annual savings of 30.5 million British thermal units (Btu). This country's largest energy efficiency program awards annual grants to state weatherization programs. DOE historically provides 40% of all weatherization funding, while states, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and utilities contribute the remaining funds.



The DOE/EERE Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program (WIP) manages a variety of initiatives to accelerate the adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy, while removing market barriers to a more energy-efficient economy

The Weatherization Assistance Program reduces the energy expenditures of low-income families by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes. Clients receive a series of cost-effective measures that are tailored to their homes and climate. Under current prices, the average first-year savings for weatherization clients is \$437, which equates to a 35% reduction in heating costs. For every \$1 invested, the Weatherization Assistance Program returns \$2.51 in benefits, including \$1.80 in reduced energy bills. The remaining returns are in the form of non-energy benefits to ratepayers, households, and communities.

State Energy Program

The State Energy Program (SEP) provides grants and technical assistance to states and U.S. territories to promote energy conservation and reduce the growth of energy demand. In a typical year, projects in SEP state plans save more than \$300 million in energy costs. Using SEP formula grants, state energy offices develop cost-shared energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that meet their unique needs and are consistent with national energy goals. The projects encompass every sector of the economy and represent all EERE technologies. Some focus on innovative

financing to increase access to capital, such as performance contracting and revolving loan funds.

In addition, the SEP co-funds “special projects” through competitive state solicitations. In 2007 DOE funded six SEP special projects to implement the Energy Policy Act, Section 140, to develop or expand energy efficiency programs; four projects to demonstrate the air quality benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies; and three projects to support interstate trading of renewable energy credits. Other EERE activities such as Clean Cities and Building Codes and Standards are also supported through SEP special projects. SEP special projects grants are an ideal vehicle to implement sections of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), including those related to alternative fuel production goals.

The SEP also supports strategic partnerships with organizations representing governors, state and utility policymakers, local government leaders, and private industry to identify common objectives and to leverage DOE’s outreach efforts.

Through SEP, states target both near-term deployment of energy efficiency and renewable technologies

and long-term market transformation. States are uniquely situated to bring about lasting change through adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy portfolio standards, advanced building codes, sustainable community and land-use planning, and innovative energy policies and programs.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program is a new program of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. It represents a Presidential priority to invest in the cheapest, cleanest, most reliable energy technologies available—efficiency and conservation—which can be deployed immediately. Through \$3.2 billion in formula and competitive grants to over 2,300 U.S. cities, counties, states, territories, and Indian tribes, EECBG empowers communities to make strategic

investments to meet the nation's long-term goals for energy independence and leadership climate change.

The program's purpose is to 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, development and implementation of advanced building codes and inspections, and 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 methane and other greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, 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.



Geothermal power plant at The Geysers near Santa Rosa in northern California, the world's largest electricity-generating geothermal development



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Tribal Energy Program

The DOE Tribal Energy Program promotes tribal energy sufficiency, economic development, and employment on tribal lands through the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. Tribes receive financial and technical assistance through government-to-government partnerships that allow tribal leaders to make informed decisions about energy, bring renewable energy and energy efficiency options to Indian tribes, enhance human capacity through education and training, and improve local tribal economies and the environment.

Since 1992, DOE has invested \$16.5 million in 93 tribal energy projects. Participating tribes have contributed an additional \$6.4 million to these projects.

For More Information

Contact the EERE Information Center at 1-877-EERE-INF or 1-877-337-3463 or visit www.wip.energy.gov.