

Accelerating Clean Energy Adoption

The Department of Energy (DOE) saves families, businesses, and governments money by saving energy. Through efforts like the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the State Energy Program (SEP), the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG), and the Tribal Energy Program the department promotes clean energy. These programs support energy efficiency practices and technologies that cost-effectively reduce energy use, accelerate use of renewable energy like solar and wind, and displace oil consumption. The department also develops information and tools that remove market barriers to building a clean energy economy.

DOE funds energy projects and technical assistance for state and territory governments, community action agencies, utilities, Indian tribes, and energy and economic development programs overseas. These projects deploy clean energy to help secure America's energy future, as well as creating jobs and expanding economic development opportunities across the country.

Weatherization Assistance Program

The Weatherization Assistance Program partners with 50 states, the District of Columbia, five territories, and three Tribal Organizations and more than 1,000 subgrantees to make home energy upgrades—sometimes called “weatherization”—to about 100,000 low-income families annually.¹

The program saves money for low-income families by making their homes more efficient. Since its inception



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. *From left to right: Photos 1 & 2 by New River Center for Energy Research and Training ; iStock 12747338; iStock 7587530; iStock 2729106*

in 1976, WAP has upgraded more than 6.9 million homes. Weatherization decreases national energy consumption by the equivalent 24.1 million barrels of oil annually. Cost-effective measures tailored to specific homes and climates save families an average of \$437 annually in heating and cooling costs, with additional energy and cost savings from lighting and appliance upgrades. For every \$1 invested, WAP returns \$2.51 in benefits, including \$1.80 in savings on energy bills. Other non-energy benefits to ratepayers, households, and communities comprise the remaining returns.

The WAP is the nation's largest energy efficiency program. DOE historically provides 40% of the funding for all weatherization services, while states, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and utilities contribute the remaining funds.

State Energy Program

Projects funded by the State Energy Program (SEP) have been shown to save more than \$7 in energy costs for every dollar of federal funds invested; that equates to \$300 million in savings annually from recent annual appropriations. Using SEP formula grants, state and U.S. territory energy offices develop state energy plans and cost-shared energy efficiency and renewable energy policies and projects that meet unique needs and support national energy goals. The projects encompass every sector of the economy and represent many clean energy technologies. Some projects focus on innovative financing to increase access to capital, such as performance contracting and revolving loan funds.

In addition, SEP co-funds innovative “special projects” through competitive state solicitations and 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 by adopting 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, the first-funded by the Recovery Act in 2009. It represents a national priority to invest in the cheapest, cleanest, most reliable energy technologies available—efficiency and conservation—which can save families and businesses money. With \$3.2 billion in formula and competitive grants, nearly every city and county in America—more than 2,300 recipients including states, territories, and Indian tribes as well—are making energy upgrades. EECBG empowers communities to strategically invest in projects that will foster American prosperity in a 21st century clean energy economy.

The program is reducing total energy use and fossil fuel-based emissions, while improving energy efficiency nationwide. The funding supports energy audits and energy efficiency upgrades 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 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.



The Illinois "Corn Bus" has been featured in numerous parades and local events. Fourteen ethanol-powered buses operate along regular routes in Peoria, Illinois.

Photo from Seattle Filmworks, NREL/PIX 01691

¹ Average number of homes weatherized per year before the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.



American Indians from Sioux Indian Tribe (Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota) take a tour of the Ponnequin Wind Farm, Weld County, Colorado.

Photo by NREL/PIX 09827

Tribal Energy Program

The department's Tribal Energy Program (TEP) promotes Tribal energy sufficiency, economic development, and employment on Tribal lands. DOE provides Tribes financial and technical assistance through government-to-government partnerships that empower tribal leaders to make informed decisions about energy, bring clean energy options to Indian Country, educate and train tribe members, and improve local

economies while protecting the environment. As building knowledge and skills is essential to developing, implementing, and sustaining clean energy projects, TEP also offers education and training opportunities. Since 1992, DOE has invested \$30.4 million in 129 tribal energy projects, leveraged by \$29.1 million in cost share.

Learn More



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