

## State and local partnerships accelerate the use of new energy technologies

### THE BENEFITS

State and community partnerships help to:

- Promote the use of new energy-efficient technologies and practices
- Leverage Federal, local, and private funds for maximum effectiveness
- Focus services to meet local needs
- Educate individuals and organizations about energy-saving opportunities
- Enable needy families to benefit from energy efficiency improvements
- Provide communities with technical support and assistance

### The Programs

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of State and Community Programs has delivered a wealth of energy-efficient technologies to countless American communities and households through the State Energy and Weatherization Assistance Programs. These programs, integral to America's energy management, have aggregated many facets of energy education, services, and outreach across the U.S., helping communities and families make their energy dollars go further.

In collaboration with States, local governments, communities, schools, institutions, and companies, DOE helps to move new, cost-effective energy technologies and practices from the laboratory into all sectors of our communities. These partnerships are an essential link to widespread deployment of energy-efficient technologies and practices. DOE supports this effort by providing financial and technical assistance, education, and training.

### The Approach

Through the State Energy Program, DOE provides grants to leverage non-Federal resources and allow the States to tailor programs to their local needs. State Formula Grants help to maintain a strong State Energy Office delivery network, essential to achieving national energy objectives. Special Projects Grants are designed to promote adoption of innovative, high-potential energy technologies developed by DOE's end-use sector research programs.

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families save on energy bills. Low-income households spend an average of nearly 15 percent of income for residential energy — more than four times the proportion spent by higher-income households. The Weatherization Assistance Program, implemented by States through community-based organizations, enables low-income families to benefit from the application of energy-efficient technologies.



*Children learn about energy efficiency and solar and wind power in the Ecohouse—a dome-shaped building made entirely from recycled building materials.*





## BUILDINGS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Buildings that are more energy-efficient, comfortable, and affordable . . . that's the goal of DOE's Office of Building Technology, State and Community Programs (BTS). To accelerate the development and wide application of energy efficiency measures, BTS:

- Conducts R&D on technologies and concepts for energy efficiency, working closely with the building industry and with manufacturers of materials, equipment, and appliances
- Promotes energy/money saving opportunities to both builders and buyers of homes and commercial buildings
- Works with State and local regulatory groups to improve building codes, appliance standards, and guidelines for efficient energy use
- Provides support and grants to States and communities for deployment of energy-efficient technologies and practices

## The Results

The State Energy Program has implemented more than 8,500 projects since 1976. Through one of the programs which over time merged into today's State Energy Program, over 69,000 school and hospital buildings have been made more energy efficient, saving hundreds of millions of dollars in annual heating costs and enabling these institutions to make better use of taxpayer dollars.

State Energy Offices, acting as catalysts for public-private partnerships that encourage deployment of energy-efficient technology, have been able to leverage their Formula Grant funding at the rate of \$4 in non-Federal funding for each Federal dollar and, for some activities, as much as \$13 to \$14 in non-Federal for every Federal dollar.

Cooperative partnerships with State and local agencies have generated dramatic improvements in energy efficiency as well as economic and environmental benefits.

Between 1989 and 1996, advanced energy audits and improved weatherizing practices have increased the average energy savings among low-income client households by 80 percent, from 13 percent of energy used to 23 percent.

The benefits of the Weatherization Assistance Program extend far beyond energy and cost savings. One positive impact is the improvement of the health and safety of weatherization clients by reducing their reliance on inefficient combustion equipment. Reduced energy consumption also decreases the environmental impact of power generation and the consumption of imported fuels. In addition, the program reduces demand on other social programs, such as fuel assistance, housing, and health care, and helps to improve housing conditions.



*The Weatherization Assistance Program enables low-income families to benefit from the application of energy-efficient technologies.*

### TO LEARN MORE ABOUT STATE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, CONTACT:

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Visit the State and Community Programs Web site at: [www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/state\\_and\\_community](http://www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/state_and_community)  
Or call the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse at: 1-800-DOE-3732