



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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DOE Delivers Nearly \$21 Million for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Projects in North Carolina

Also Releases New Report Outlining Major Economic Opportunities for North Carolina in a Clean Energy Economy

Washington, DC – On a conference call with North Carolina reporters this afternoon, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced that North Carolina will receive \$20,925,500 in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support energy efficiency and conservation activities. Under the Department of Energy's Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program, the state will implement programs that lower energy use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create green jobs across the Tar Heel State.

Secretary Chu also released a new report outlining major economic opportunities for North Carolina as the U.S. moves to a clean energy economy and pursues comprehensive legislation to create a system of clean energy incentives. This includes significant opportunities in wind power, nuclear power, energy efficiency and other areas. A copy of the report is attached.

"This funding will allow North Carolina to make major investments in energy solutions that will strengthen America's economy and create jobs at the local level," said Secretary Chu. "It will also promote some of the cheapest, cleanest and most reliable energy technologies we have - energy efficiency and conservation - which can be deployed immediately. Local communities can now make strategic investments to help meet the nation's long term clean energy and climate goals."

North Carolina will put its EECBG Recovery Act funding to support state-level energy efficiency priorities, along with local conservation projects in smaller cities and counties across the state. The state will focus its efforts on energy efficiency retrofits for buildings and programs that recapture methane for electricity generation. The funding will also be used to invest in transportation efficiency projects and developing energy surveys and conservation planning for local governments. The State Energy Office will pass through 60 percent of its funds to local cities and counties that are not eligible for direct EECBG awards from the Department of Energy. Under the EECBG program, the state will be able to lower greenhouse gas emissions – by reducing energy use and recapturing methane – and create green jobs across the state.

The EECBG Program was funded for the first time by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and provides formula grants to states, cities, counties, territories and federally-recognized Indian tribes nationwide to implement energy efficiency projects locally. Projects eligible for support include the development of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy, energy efficiency audits and retrofits, transportation programs, the creation of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements, the development and implementation of advanced building codes and inspections, and installation of renewable energy technologies on municipal buildings.

Transparency and accountability are important priorities for the EECBG program and all Recovery Act projects. All grantees have specific measures they must take before spending the full amount of awarded funding, such as ensuring oversight and transparency, submitting a conservation strategy to the Department of Energy, and complying with environmental regulations.

Throughout the program's implementation, DOE will provide strong oversight at the local, state, and tribal level, while emphasizing the need to quickly award funds to help create new jobs and stimulate local economies. Communities will be required to report regularly to DOE on the progress they have made toward successfully completing projects and reaching program goals.

For a full list of awards to date, visit www.eecbg.energy.gov.

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