



## **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant**

Last year, Congress passed an energy bill that included a provision creating the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, within the U.S. Department of Energy, to provide grants to cities to assist in the implementation of innovative practices to improve energy efficiency, lower energy usage and reduce fossil fuel emissions.

The nation is facing energy challenges, including escalating energy costs, and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security. Several cities have implemented energy conservation and environmental protection programs and similar innovations to conserve energy, protect natural resources and support the economies of their cities and the nation.

Cities have taken the lead in adopting energy-saving and environmentally-friendly practices, including smart growth solutions, clean and alternative energy options, green building techniques, transportation technology, recycling, and sustainable forests and green canopy initiatives, among others.

Many cities have not been able to expand or implement several energy-saving strategies and environmentally-friendly strategies due to budgetary constraints.

Florida League of Cities President Frank C. Ortis, Mayor of Pembroke Pines has made the Florida Green Cities Initiative his top priority for 2008 and is urging Florida's cities to become "green local governments."

### **Position:**

The Florida League of Cities wishes to thank Congress for creating the block grant and requests that Congress fund the Energy Efficiency and Conservation block Grant at \$2 billion for FY 2008-09.