



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

For years, our nation's cities have been leading the way in innovation by implementing energy conservation and environmental protection programs to support their communities and the national economy.

Last year, Congress and the President enacted historic comprehensive energy reform legislation aimed at moving the U.S. toward greater energy independence and security, increasing the production of clean renewable fuels, and increasing the energy efficiency of products, buildings and vehicles.

The legislation included the creation of a new Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program that would provide grants to cities, counties, and states for innovative practices designed to achieve greater energy efficiency and lower energy usage. These grants would fund local initiatives, including building and home energy conservation programs, energy audits, fuel conservation programs, building retrofits to increase energy efficiency, "smart growth" planning and zoning and alternative energy programs. The law authorizes an appropriation of \$2 billion a year through 2012.

Message to Congress

- *Thank you for enacting comprehensive energy legislation, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.*
- *A variety of challenges* have brought increased attention and timeliness to sustainability, including the threat of climate change, rising energy prices, and the depletion of natural resources.
- *Sustainability is a defining issue of our time*, representing the broad notion that all activities should take into account implications for people and the environment so that our actions meet the needs of the current generation without compromising future generations.
- *Our nation's cities are innovators* in implementing energy conservation and environmental protection programs to support their communities and the national economy.
- *Local governments recognize they have a central role to play in affecting change*, but need the support and cooperation of the federal government. By including funds for the block grant program, municipal leaders will be able to expand their efforts to support building and home energy conservation programs, and improve energy efficiency.

Request to Congress

- **Appropriate** \$2 billion for fiscal year 2009 to fund the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.