

Navigating the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

FROM THE ILLINOIS SMART ENERGY DESIGN ASSISTANCE CENTER



Protect America's Future With Educated Energy Investments Today

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), better known as the Stimulus Bill, was passed by Congress and signed into law in February 2009. Among many things, the Recovery Act provides new funds for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Here is a partial listing of such programs:

1. Research, development, demonstration and deployment for biomass, geothermal, and other industrial energy solutions.
2. Loan guarantees for advanced technologies to avoid pollution.
3. Green jobs programs.
4. Green programs for K-12 schools.
5. "Smart" electric grid investments.
6. Advanced battery manufacture and research.
7. Plug-in vehicles programs.
8. Federal fleet with fuel efficient vehicles.
9. Public transportation and rail, including high-speed rail.
10. Alternative transportation grants and programs.
11. Energy efficiency for low-income housing.
12. Energy efficient appliance rebate programs.
13. Tax provisions including existing homes tax credit, investment tax credit and others.
14. Energy Efficient and Conservation Block grant program for counties and to improve energy efficiency.
15. Weatherization Assistance programs help low income households become more energy efficient.
16. State Energy Program for a wide variety of programs to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, alternative transportation programs and others.

We have outlined the last three programs in some detail as they are programs Illinois is actively promoting and administering at the present time. The website for the federal programs is <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/>

SEDAC

If you need assistance finding qualified contractors or suppliers, the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center can help. Our database of pre-qualified service providers includes reputable professionals in a variety of fields, including energy auditors, financing providers, dealers and installers of high efficiency HVAC, efficient lighting, solar and more.

Illinois' Energy Efficiency Information Clearinghouse

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grants

The purpose of the U.S. Department of Energy's EEBCG program is to help eligible state and local governments implement energy efficiency and conservation strategies to reduce fossil fuel emissions within the jurisdictions, reduce total energy use, and improve energy efficiency in transportation, building, and other sectors. Illinois' total distribution under the EEBCG Program is \$112,175,600.

Of this amount, \$90,341,000 is for direct grants to large local governments, such as larger cities and counties in Illinois. The DOE requires an application by these direct grant recipients. The original deadline was June 25, 2009 but has been extended to August 10, 2009. If you are a direct grant public entity and need help with the application, you can contact us at info@sedac.org and we can put you in contact with someone who can help you.

The remaining \$21,834,600 will be provided to the Illinois Regional Planning Agencies and state buildings. Types of projects likely to be covered may include: alternative fueled/electric fleet vehicles; building energy audits; efficiency improvements or renewable energy technologies for government facilities; distributed energy resource technologies (e.g. combined heat and power, ground source heat pumps); and, energy efficient traffic signals and street lighting.



Leveraging Existing Programs

An important part of all these new Recovery Act funded programs is to take advantage of other resources so as to leverage the new funds with as much existing program money as possible.

A good example in Illinois is the Public Sector Energy Efficiency (PSEE) program run by IL DCEO. The full benefit package is found at www.commerce.state.il.us/NR/rdonlyres/C5666CB0-5257-4018-929D-C5BC4128FOC1/0/PSEEG.pdf

The PSEE is now in its second year beginning June 1, 2009 and provides for prescriptive and custom financial incentives for upgrading existing public sector buildings. Money gained from the PSEE program can be used in conjunction with the Recovery Act stimulus money to make a project have a great payback instead of just a good payback.

Also, there are other private, state and federal sources of funding for energy efficiency that should be pursued for the best possible funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Illinois. A good source for information on resources in Illinois is the DSIRE website at www.dsireusa.org/incentives

Use of EEBCG Funds

EEBCG grants can be used for energy efficiency and conservation programs and projects community wide, as well as renewable energy installations on government buildings. Activities eligible for use of funds include:

- Development of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy;
- Building energy audits and retrofits, including weatherization;
- Financial incentive programs for energy efficiency such as energy savings performance contracting, on-bill financing, and revolving loan funds;
- Transportation programs to conserve energy;
- Building code development, implementation, and inspections;
- Installation of distributed energy technologies including combined heat and power and district heating and cooling systems;
- Material conservation programs including source reduction, recycling, and recycled content procurement programs;
- Reduction and capture of greenhouse gas emissions generated by landfills or similar waste-related sources;
- Installation of energy efficient traffic signals and street lighting;
- Installation of renewable energy technologies on government buildings;
- Any other appropriate activity that meets the purposes of the program and is approved by DOE.

SEDAC

Who We Are

The Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) was designed to support the Illinois Smart Energy Design Assistance Program, working to increase the efficient and effective use of energy throughout Illinois. SEDAC is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and is managed by the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the 360 Energy Group.

What We Do

Through the Illinois Smart Energy Design Assistance Program, SEDAC provides advice and analysis enabling facilities in the State of Illinois to increase their profitability through the efficient use of energy resources. These fee-free technical services can identify opportunities for energy savings through intelligent building design and efficient building components and systems.

How to Reach Us

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Looking for IL EEPS info?

SEDAC maintains an up-to-date resource detailing news and updates to the Illinois Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard online at www.ileeps.org



State Energy Program

The U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program (SEP) provides formula grants to states for programs designed to increase energy efficiency, reduce energy use and costs, develop alternative energy and renewable energy sources, promote economic development, and reduce our state's reliance on foreign oil.

Illinois' formula allocation for SEP under the the Recovery Act is \$101,321,000. This amount increases the annual budget for the state energy office ten times over. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is the state's energy office that is administering these funds. The website for these programs is found at http://www.commerce.state.il.us/dceo/Bureaus/Energy_Recycling/Economic+Stimulus/EconomicStimulus.htm

An application to the DOE SEP program has been sent by the state of Illinois and is currently under review. After receipt of the funds to IL DCEO, program guidelines and Requests for Proposals will be issued for the use of these funds consistent with the DOE guidelines and IL DCEO's application.

Weatherization Assistance Program

The Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP) helps low-income households improve their homes, reduce energy consumption and lower their utility bills. Energy conservation measures such as air sealing, attic and wall insulation, furnace repairs or replacements, electric base load reduction (lighting and refrigeration), and window and door work are provided free of charge to eligible households.

The maximum amount of work to be done on a home is based on each individual type of home with a maximum of \$7,500 when major energy-related repairs are needed.

IHWAP is delivered by the state's network of Community Action Agencies and is administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IL DCEO). The website for this program is found at www.weatherizationillinois.com. IHWAP is funded by the [U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\)](http://www.energy.gov), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the state supplemental Energy Assistance Fund.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides a large increase in DOE weatherization funds. This Stimulus funding will allow many more low-income homes in Illinois to be improved over the next two years.