



**Energy Block
Grants Work!**
CAMPAIGN TO SAVE EECBG

December 10, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Support Full Funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program

Dear President Obama:

We write on behalf of a growing network of hundreds of local government officials across America to urge you to include full funding of \$2 billion for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program in your FY 2012 budget request to Congress.

Authorized in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the EECBG program is empowering cities and counties to create thousands of new clean energy jobs through investments in building efficiency, community scale renewables and other programs that conserve energy.

As you know, America's cities and counties have taken the lead in implementing clean energy solutions by serving as laboratories of innovation. Local governments are leveraging EECBG funds to provide low-cost financing for energy efficiency retrofits of buildings; setting and enforcing building efficiency standards; developing community-scale renewable energy; utilizing low-emission vehicles and fuels; installing alternative fuels infrastructure; promoting smart growth and increased mass transit to reduce vehicle miles traveled; and developing clean energy jobs. For example:

- The City of Wilmington, Delaware, is using \$800,000 in EECBG funding to partner with Honeywell and leverage a \$14.5 million local investment in a comprehensive clean energy project. Upgrades include installing 3,400 solar panels on city facilities, converting all traffic lights to high-efficiency light-emitting diodes (LEDs), and installing energy-efficient lighting and HVAC equipment in city-owned properties. The project is expected to create approximately 100 new jobs and save Wilmington more than \$1 million a year in energy costs.

- The City of Fort Worth, Texas, is partnering with Johnson Controls to implement a comprehensive clean energy initiative, including efficiency upgrades to the local wastewater treatment facilities and buildings, solar powered lighting for city parking lots, a solar water heating pilot at a city community center, a traffic signalization pilot to reduce energy consumption, and a project to encourage commuting by bicycle. Together, these initiatives are projected to create about 75 new jobs and significantly reduce energy consumption in Fort Worth.
- Sonoma County, California, is using its EECBG funds to support a \$100 million regional financing program for retrofitting residential and commercial buildings, deploy a 750 kilowatt solar array at the County's juvenile detention facility, install 14 electric vehicle charging stations, and implement innovative landscaping requiring limited water and maintenance at the County's veterans buildings.

America's cities and counties must be a full partner if our nation hopes to meet its ambitious goals to: (1) achieve energy independence and improve national security; (2) create new jobs, technology innovation, and business opportunities so that we can compete effectively in the growing international clean energy marketplace; and (3) cut carbon pollution so that we can better avoid and prepare for the costly potential impacts of global climate change, including rising sea levels and increased drought, wildfires, flooding, and storms. Transformational change to a clean energy economy will take widespread new approaches by citizens and small businesses in every community. No sector is better prepared to foster and lead this ground-up change than local governments. But localities cannot do it alone, without federal government support and resources.

Again, we encourage you to provide \$2 billion for the EECBG program in your FY 2012 budget to make sure the nation's local governments can continue their leadership in creating clean energy jobs, reducing energy consumption and curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Roger Dickinson
Sacramento County, CA
Climate Communities Co-Chair

Councilmember Larry Phillips
King County, WA
Climate Communities Co-Chair

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