

Chu approves energy funding plans

US Energy Secretary Steven Chu has approved plans for the Department of Energy's funding from America's US\$787 billion economic recovery package. DOE says Chu has "reviewed and approved the spending plans" for the Office of Science, the Office of Environmental Management, and part of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act authorises DOE to receive US\$1.6 billion for the Office of Science, US\$5.6 billion for defense and non-defense environmental clean-up in the Office of Environmental Management, and US\$16.8 billion for the EERE office. "While we work on transformational technologies, DOE must also improve its efforts to demonstrate next-generation technologies and to help deploy demonstrated clean energy technologies at scale. The loan guarantee program will be critical to these efforts by helping to commercialise technologies, and the Recovery Act funding for weatherisation and energy efficiency block grant programs will accelerate the deployment of energy efficient technologies," says Chu. "I am excited about the prospect of improving DOE's clean energy research, development, and deployment efforts. The nation needs better technologies to fully meet our climate and energy challenges, and DOE can be a major contributor to this effort." DOE has also met with US Treasury to begin planning the administration of an investment tax credit program for renewable energy technologies, and has met with energy lawmakers, according to a department report.

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