

## **DOE allocates US\$204 million for energy efficiency projects**

US Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu has announced more than US\$204 million in Recovery Act funding to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in ten states. Under DOE's State Energy Program, states have proposed state-wide plans that prioritise energy savings, create or retain jobs, increase the use of renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. "This funding will provide an important boost for state economies, help to put Americans back to work and move us toward energy independence," says Chu. "It reflects our commitment to support innovative state and local strategies to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy while insisting that taxpayer dollars be spent responsibly." Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah and Washington have received 40 per cent of their total State Energy Program funding authorised under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; the new announcement means these states will now have received 50 per cent of their total Recovery Act SEP funding. The remaining 50 per cent of the funds will be released once states meet reporting, oversight and accountability milestones required by the Recovery Act, which appropriated US\$3.1 billion to the program to help achieve national energy independence goals and promote local economic recovery.

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