

## **Canada Offers Incentives To Improve Energy Efficiency**

The Canadian Government is offering homeowners cash incentives of up to \$5000 if they retrofit their homes to make them more energy efficient. The rebate is the central plank in a C\$300 million program to cut energy consumption. It is aimed at helping homeowners, small business owners and property managers to embrace energy-saving measures including installing programmable thermostats, ditching power intensive appliances, topping up insulation and installing windows and doors which trap heat. But critics say the plan is flawed as homeowners must first pay \$200-\$300 for an energy audit of their property as well as an inspection following installation to verify the extent of the work completed. The government has also announced a \$230 million investment into research on clean technologies which will focus on projects such as those generating electricity from 'clean coal' as well as carbon capture and storage research. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has also launched a plan to spend \$1.5 billion over 10 years to clean up conventional energy sources, as well as develop alternative technology including wind and tidal-generated power. The program is expected to boost renewable energy production by 4000 MW a year.

[Source esaa news]