

## **US Senate Increases Energy Budget**

The US Senate has passed its fiscal 2009 budget, which allows for US\$13.4 billion in renewable energy tax incentives and creates a reserve fund for other energy expenditures. It passed by a 48-45 vote, with two Republicans joining Democrats to vote in favour of the measure. The budget allows \$2.8 billion more to be spent on energy programs at the US Department of Energy and elsewhere than the President requested in his budget. It also calls for the full funding of a DOE weatherisation program that the agency had recommended for elimination, as well as for other DOE renewable energy and energy efficiency programs that, Democrats argue, did not receive their due in his budget. The annual budget resolution – which must pass both chambers of Congress but doesn't require the President's signature – creates a blueprint for spending decisions in a given year, but it does not authorise spending or create policy.

[Source essa news]