

More federal money headed to Oregon for energy and conservation projects

By [Abby Haight, The Oregonian](#)

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Vice President Joe Biden and Energy Secretary Steven Chu on March 12 announced federal investment in energy and conservation programs through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Biden and Chu announced an additional \$3.2 billion will stimulate states through Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants. Oregon is slated to receive \$33.5 million.

Oregon will receive \$33.5 million for energy efficiency and conservation projects under an Obama administration plan announced today.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program is part of \$3.2 billion invested around the country, and builds on \$80.6 million targeting Oregon weatherization and energy announced by the administration on [March 12](#).

The grants, funded through the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#), will finance projects that reduce total energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency. Programs that would be grant-eligible include energy audits and efficiency retrofits in residential and commercial buildings, the development of advanced building codes and inspections and the creation of financial incentives for energy efficiency improvements.

Other programs include transportation plans that conserve energy; reducing and capturing methane and other greenhouse gas emissions from landfills; installing renewable energy systems in government buildings; and switching to efficient traffic signals and street lights.

"These investments will save taxpayer dollars and create jobs in communities around the country," Vice President Joe Biden said in a statement. "Local leaders will have the flexibility in how they put these resources to work -- but we will hold them accountable for making the investments quickly and wisely to spur the local economy and cut energy use."

The U.S. Department of Energy will oversee the grants. Recipients will have to report on the number of jobs created or retained, energy saved, number of renewable energy systems installed, greenhouse gas emissions reduced and how the grants have been used to leverage other funds for conservation projects.

A breakdown for Oregon state, city and county governments and tribal governments receiving grants is here. [Download file.](#)

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