

**October 7, 2009**

## **Energy Efficiency Block Grants Now Available to Local Governments**

On Oct., 6 Gov. Timothy M. Kaine announced the availability of \$9.7 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG). These grants will be distributed to smaller local governments (not eligible for formula based EECBG funds) for the following purposes:

- Development and implementation of an energy efficiency strategy.
- Energy audits and retrofits of homes and commercial buildings.
- Energy efficiency retrofits of nonprofit organizations and governmental buildings.
- Transportation measures to conserve energy.
- Financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements.
- Application of energy distribution technologies such as district heating and cooling systems.
- Installation of light emitting diodes (LED) in traffic signals and for indirect lighting of the outside of buildings.
- Use in any government building of onsite renewable energy such as solar thermal, solar electric, wind energy, or geothermal.

[Here is the application and application guidance for EECBG funding.](#)

Gov. Kaine also announced the allocation of \$40 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to implement the Virginia State Energy Plan, a blueprint for funding energy-related initiatives throughout Virginia. The funding is intended to create jobs, encourage energy conservation, and promote alternative energy generation through rebates to residential and commercial consumers, as well as grants to localities and individual projects.

- \$15 million to the recently announced Virginia Energy Efficiency Rebate Program which will provide rebates to consumers who purchase energy efficient products and equipment.
- \$15 million to the new Renewable Energy Rebate Program which will provide rebates to Virginians who install renewable energy generation systems-such as solar or wind systems.
- \$10 million for biomass and waste-to-energy projects, available to localities and individual projects.

The \$10 million for biomass and waste-to-energy projects will fund a wide range of initiatives such as digesting agricultural waste into biogas, using landfill gas to produce electricity, and using biomass for combined heat and power.

[Click here to view a Fact sheet detailing the programs above](#)

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