



Support Local Energy Efficiency and Conservation Efforts

Sustainability is a defining issue of our time. The reason: increasing concern about climate change and other threats to public health and the environment related to human activities.

For years, our nation's cities and towns have been leading the way in innovation by implementing energy conservation and environmental protection programs to support their communities and the national economy. Today, cities and towns find themselves at the epicenter of the sustainability movement – actively pursuing initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect the environment in other ways.

In 2007, historic comprehensive energy reform legislation aimed at moving the U.S. toward greater energy independence and security, created an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program that would provide grants to cities, counties, and states for innovative practices designed to achieve greater energy efficiency and lower energy usage.

Message to Congress

- *Thank you for funding the Energy Environment and Conservation Block Grant in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.*
- *The threat of climate change, increased demand for energy, and the depletion of natural resources have brought increased attention and timeliness to sustainability.*
- *Local government investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies will reduce our dependency on foreign energy, create jobs and economic growth and stability, yield cost and energy savings for municipalities, businesses and families, and foster healthier communities.*
- *Our nation's cities and towns are innovators in implementing energy conservation and environmental protection programs to support their communities and the national economy.*
- *Local governments recognize they have a central role to play in affecting change, but the federal government should be a full partner in these efforts – providing national leadership when appropriate, and supporting creative efforts that can only happen at the community level.*

Request to Congress

- **Provide** \$2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program in fiscal year 2010 to further these local efforts.