

TALKING POINTS: STATE ENERGY PROGRAM

- As part of the Energy bill, enacted by Congress in December 2007, and signed by the President, the Federally-funded State Energy Program (SEP) has been reauthorized through 2012 at a proposed funding level of \$125 million. If funding was provided at this higher level it would be closer to the inflation-adjusted level. In the mid-1980s, this program received over \$50 million. SEP should receive \$125 million in FY 2009.
- SEP provides money to state energy offices to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy programs impacting every sector of the economy. A study conducted by Oak Ridge National Laboratory concluded that for every Federal dollar invested over \$7 in energy savings is achieved and almost \$11 in non-Federal funds are contributed to projects. This study is a few years old, so that with much higher energy prices the savings are significantly greater.
- SEP received only \$44.5 million in FY 2008, a reduction from the \$49.5 million in FY 2007. Of this amount, \$10 million is to be distributed as a competitive program between the states. This will further reduce the state-level base grants.
- This funding allows states to improve the energy efficiency of schools, hospitals, small businesses, home owners, the poor, elderly and disabled.
- Funds are utilized to promote Energy Star products and work with utilities and local governments on all types of energy projects.
- States utilize these funds to conduct energy emergency preparedness activities and respond to energy emergencies.
- SEP funds are utilized to promote alternative fuels and hybrid vehicles.
- States promote the use of energy service performance contracts and implement those projects, which reduces energy costs for all types of public and private entities, while keeping capital costs low.
- These funds help support new and innovative high technology jobs in the “new energy” economy.
- States utilize these funds to implement higher building energy codes and conduct training for code officials, builders and architects.
- States implement all types of energy financing programs for projects.

