

# THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT WORKSHOP

Presented by U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy & Governor James Douglas

March 6, 2009 - Burlington, Vermont

## ENERGY AND BROADBAND

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act makes a bold investment in our nation's clean and efficient energy production and broadband capabilities. This act will put people back to work today and reduce our dependence on foreign oil tomorrow by strengthening efforts directed at doubling renewable energy production and renovating public buildings across the country to make them more energy efficient.

With additional research and development, pilot projects, and federal matching funds for the Smart Grid Investment Program we will make strides towards modernizing the electricity grid, making it more efficient, secure, and

reliable, while building new power lines to transmit clean, renewable energy from sources throughout the nation.

Through smart investments in broadband and wireless services the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will strengthen the economy of communities in underserved areas by helping them to succeed in a global economy. For every dollar invested in broadband, it is calculated that the U.S. economy will see a ten-fold return on that funding investment.

### Specifically, the Act includes:

- \$4.5 billion for repair of federal buildings to increase energy efficiency using green technology;
- \$11 billion for smart-grid related activities, including work to modernize the electric grid;
- \$6.3 billion for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grants – **\$22 million to the Vermont State Energy Program;**
- \$5 billion for the Weatherization Assistance Program – **\$17.2 million expected to come directly to Vermont;**
- \$300 million to provide consumers with rebates for buying energy efficient Energy Star products to replace old appliances;
- \$2.5 billion for energy efficiency and renewable energy research;
- \$500 million to prepare workers for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy fields;
- \$2 billion in grant funding for the manufacturing of advanced batteries systems and components and vehicle batteries that are produced in the United States;
- \$6 billion for new loan guarantees aimed at standard renewable projects such as wind or solar projects and for electricity transmission projects;
- \$300 million to help state and local governments purchase efficient alternative fuel vehicles to reduce fuel costs and carbon emissions;
- \$1 billion for other energy efficiency programs including alternative fuel trucks and buses transportation charging infrastructure, and smart and energy efficient appliances; and
- \$2.5 billion for the USDA Rural Development 's broadband loan, loan guarantee, and grant program; and
- \$4.7 billion through the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration loan and grant program.

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# BROADBAND AND ENERGY PROVISIONS

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