

## State to receive \$37 million in U.S. energy efficiency grants

*By Paul Gores of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Mar. 26, 2009*

Wisconsin will receive almost \$37.2 million in grants for local efforts to improve energy efficiency, the U.S. Department of Energy said Thursday.

The block grant money, which is part of \$3.2 billion being made available nationwide through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will be distributed locally for projects that reduce total energy use, cut fossil fuels emissions and improve energy efficiency.

For example, the funds will go to support energy audits and energy-saving retrofits in residential and commercial buildings, development of better building codes, and inspections by communities and transportation programs that conserve energy and cut harmful emissions.

The Department of Energy said that, to ensure accountability for how the money is used, it will require recipients to report on the number of jobs created or retained, energy saved, renewable energy capacity installed, greenhouse gas emissions reduced and funds leveraged.

The biggest recipient of Wisconsin's share is the state government, which gets more than \$11.7 million. The cities of Milwaukee and Madison receive \$5.8 million and \$2.4 million, respectively, the most among state cities. Dane County receives the biggest county allocation, nearly \$2.3 million, with Waukesha County next at \$2.2 million.