



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Subcommittee: Energy and Water

**Request:** Annually appropriate the maximum possible authorization for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to enhance municipal energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and expand into community-based programs for energy efficiency and green building.

### Community Value:

The city of Phoenix has a long-standing commitment to resource conservation and has actively participated in energy conservation, energy efficiency and environmental preservation since the early 1980s. During this time, the city's energy program has yielded more than \$120 million in energy cost avoidance for municipal operations, reflecting a commitment to energy, environmental and fiscal responsibility. Phoenix has adopted the following sustainability/policy goals: 1) A renewable energy target of 15 percent by 2025 and 2) a Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for city operations to 5 percent below 2005 levels by 2015. In April 2009, the City Council endorsed the 17-point Green Phoenix Initiative and the city has partnered with APS and ASU to develop a proposed sustainable energy efficiency program, the Green Rail Corridor Demonstration Project. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant appropriation will accelerate the city's efforts into community-based initiatives, including incentives, energy conservation, efficiency and green building programs as well as renewable energy project opportunities.



### Background:

While Phoenix's energy conservation effort has focused strictly on municipal operations in the past, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant appropriation will provide much-needed funding to extend new services into the community. These services can include projects on residential energy conservation, efficiency and education, establishment of a residential green building program with incentives and renewable energy project opportunities to take advantage of the vast solar energy resources in the "Valley of the Sun." Phoenix recently announced the implementation of Solar Phoenix, a residential solar financing program that allows qualifying homeowners to install solar systems with no upfront investment and a low monthly lease payment, resulting in lower overall utility costs. The program is collaboration between Phoenix, APS, National Bank of Arizona and SolarCity and its goal is to cover up to 1,000 homeowners, with a targeted contracted capacity of 5 MW.

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