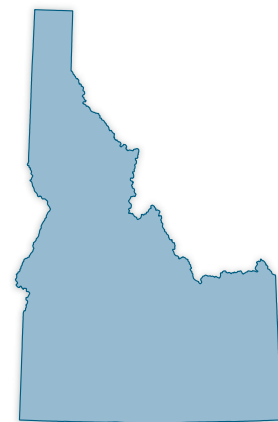




Department of Energy Recovery Act State Memos

Idaho



For questions about DOE's Recovery Act activities, please contact the DOE Recovery Act Clearinghouse:
1-888-DOE-RCVY (888-363-7289), Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Time
<https://recoveryclearinghouse.energy.gov/contactUs.htm>.

All numbers and projects listed as of June 1, 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

RECOVERY ACT SNAPSHOT..... 1

FUNDING ALLOCATION TABLE..... 2

ENERGY EFFICIENCY3

RENEWABLE ENERGY4

ELECTRIC GRID.....5

TRANSPORTATION 7

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP..... 7

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION8

RECOVERY ACT SUCCESS STORIES – ENERGY EMPOWERS

- *Idaho schools saving energy, educating students about efficiency 9*
- *Former construction worker who needed hope now delivers it 9*
- *Weatherization program helps Idahoan cut energy bills 10*



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY • IDAHO RECOVERY ACT SNAPSHOT

Funding for selected DOE projects: \$605.7 million

DOE Recovery Act projects in Idaho: 61

Clean energy tax credits and grants: 8

For total Recovery Act jobs numbers in Idaho go to www.recovery.gov



Idaho has substantial natural resources, including wind, geothermal, and hydroelectric power. The **American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)** is making a meaningful down payment on the nation's energy and environmental future. The Recovery Act investments in Idaho are supporting a broad range of clean energy projects, from energy efficiency and the smart grid to geothermal and alternative fuels, as well as major commitments to research efforts and environmental cleanup at the Idaho National Laboratory in Idaho Falls. Through these investments, Idaho's businesses, universities, national labs, non-profits, and local governments are creating quality jobs today and positioning Idaho to play an important role in the new energy economy of the future.

EXAMPLES OF IDAHO FORMULA GRANTS

Program	State Energy Program	Weatherization Assistance Program	Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants	Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate Program
Award (in millions)	\$28.6	\$30.3	\$17.1	\$1.5
	The Idaho Department of Water Resources has received \$28.6 million in State Energy Program funds to invest in state-level energy efficiency and renewable energy priorities.	The State of Idaho has received \$30.3 million in Weatherization Assistance Program funds to scale-up existing weatherization efforts in the state, creating jobs, reducing carbon emissions, and saving money for Idaho's low-income families. Over the course of the Recovery Act, Idaho expects to weatherize more than 3,100 homes. The program also includes workforce training and education as part of the state's efforts to develop a green workforce.	Thirty communities in Idaho received \$17.1 million for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) to develop, promote, implement, and manage localized energy efficiency programs.	The Idaho Department of Water Resources has received \$1.5 million for the Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program, which offers consumer rebates for purchasing certain ENERGY STAR® appliances. These energy efficient appliances reduce energy use and save money for families, while helping the environment and supporting the local economy.

EXAMPLES OF IDAHO COMPETITIVE GRANTS, TAX CREDITS AND LOANS

Award	\$2 billion	\$423.1 million	\$47 million	\$16 million
	The Department of Energy has offered AREVA a conditional commitment for a \$2 billion loan guarantee to support the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The loan guarantee authority for the project comes from the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The company estimates the project will create approximately 1,000 jobs.	Idaho is receiving \$423.1 million to accelerate environmental cleanup efforts at Idaho National Laboratory (INL) . Funds will be used to support the accelerated deactivation and decommissioning of Cold War nuclear and radiological facilities, along with treating a shipping waste at the INL site.	Idaho Power Company was awarded a Smart Grid Investment Grant for \$47 million . The funds will be used to modernize the electric transmission and distribution infrastructure, including deploying a smart meter network for all 475,000 of the utility's customers.	Nordic Windpower, USA was offered a conditional commitment for a \$16 million loan guarantee to support the expansion of its assembly plant in Pocatello, Idaho to produce its one megawatt wind turbine. The company estimates the project will create 75 jobs.

Funding Allocation Table (Figure 1)

Total dollar amounts in this document are accurate as of June 1, 2010. Please note that Recovery Act Programs are ongoing and the dollar amounts are subject to change. Recipient locations are based on project sites rather than recipients' headquarters locations.

Recovery Act Pillar	Flagship Program Names & Funding Type ¹	Number of Selections	Selected Amount (in millions) ²
Energy Efficiency	<i>Weatherization Assistance Program (F)</i>	1	\$30.3
	<i>State Energy Program (F)</i>	1	\$28.6
	<i>Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (F)</i>	30	\$17.1
	<i>Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate (F)</i>	1	\$1.5
	<i>Industrial Energy Efficiency (CM)</i>	1	\$0.4
	<i>Additional Programs (CM & C)</i>	1	\$4.0
	TOTAL Energy Efficiency		35
Renewable Energy	<i>Geothermal (CM)</i>	3	\$10.1
	TOTAL Renewable Energy	3	\$10.1
Electric Grid	<i>Smart Grid Investment and Demonstrations Project (CM)³</i>	2	\$49.2
	<i>State and Local Energy Assurance and Regulatory Assistance (F)</i>	3	\$1.2
	<i>Smart Grid Workforce Training (CM)</i>	2	\$1.2
	TOTAL Electric Grid	7	\$51.6
Transportation	<i>Clean Cities Alternative Fuel and Vehicles Program (CM)</i>	1	\$5.5
	TOTAL Transportation	1	\$5.5
Environmental Cleanup	<i>Environmental Management Contracts (C)</i>	4	\$423.1
	TOTAL Environmental Cleanup	4	\$423.1
Science and Innovation	<i>Small Business Research (SBIR/STTR) (CM)</i>	1	\$0.1
	<i>National Laboratory Facilities (C)</i>	10	\$33.4
	TOTAL Science and Innovation	6	\$33.5
TOTAL - DOE Programs⁴		59	\$605.7
Tax Credits/ Grants ⁵	<i>Payments for Renewable Energy Generation in Lieu of Tax Credits (1603)</i>	7	\$15.9
	<i>Clean Energy Manufacturing Tax Credits (48C)</i>	1	\$3.0
	TOTAL Tax Incentives	8	\$18.9
TOTAL - DOE/Treasury + DOE		69	\$624.6
¹ F=Formula Grant, CM=Competitive Grant, C=Contract			
² "Selected" indicates DOE has selected a potential funding recipient, which begins the process of negotiating an agreement. This does not necessarily indicate that a final agreement has been reached.			
³ Projects may cross state boundaries, signifies HQ location.			
⁴ Total does not include administrative funds.			
⁵ Jointly administered by DOE and the U.S. Department of Treasury.			

ENERGY EFFICIENCY – 38 projects totaling \$85.3 million

Helping millions of American families cut utility bills by making homes and appliances more energy efficient, expanding the home efficiency industry in sales and manufacturing. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/energyefficiency.htm>.

Award(s): \$30.3 million, Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Location: Statewide

Idaho has received \$30.3 million in Weatherization Assistance Program funds to scale-up existing weatherization efforts in the state, creating jobs, reducing carbon emissions and saving money for Idaho's low-income families. Over the course of the Recovery Act, Idaho expects to weatherize more than 3,100 homes. The program also includes workforce training and education as part of the state's efforts to develop a green workforce.

Award(s): \$28.6 million, State Energy Program (SEP)

Location: Statewide

The Idaho Department of Water Resources received \$28.6 million in State Energy Program (SEP) funds to invest in state-level energy efficiency and renewable energy priorities. Idaho utilizes Recovery Act SEP funding to launch a set of programs, including a Renewable Energy Business Development Program, that will help increase the use of renewable energy while creating new jobs and stimulating the state's economy. Two initiatives encourage state schools to reduce energy costs by adopting renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Other initiatives seek to stimulate the state's economy by creating new zoning regulations in order to attract renewable energy developers to build new projects.

Award(s): 30 totaling \$21.1 million, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)

Location: Statewide

Recipients: Idaho State Energy Office, Bonner County, Coeur d'Alene Tribe of the Coeur d'Alene Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, Bannock County, Elmore County, Rexburg, Twin Falls County, Lewiston, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, Latah County, Caldwell, Bonneville County, Bingham County, Twin Falls, Coeur d'Alene, Canyon County, Kootenai County, Ada County, Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Meridian, Nampa, Boise City

Thirty communities in Idaho received \$21.1 million for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants Program (EECBG) to develop, promote, implement and manage localized energy efficiency programs.

This project assists states, U.S. territories, Indian tribes, counties and cities to develop, promote, implement and manage localized energy efficiency programs through individual program grants. The project funds programs which reduce fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and maximizes cost savings, reduces the total energy use of eligible entities and improves energy efficiency in the transportation, building and other appropriate sectors.

Award(s): \$1.5 million, Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Programs

Location: Statewide

The Idaho Department of Water Resources received \$1.5 million for the Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program, which offers consumer rebates for purchasing certain ENERGY STAR® appliances.

These energy efficient appliances reduce energy use and save money for families, while helping the environment and supporting the local economy. This project provides federal support for state-level rebate programs for residential ENERGY STAR appliance purchases by paying up to 50 percent of the administration costs of establishing and executing the rebate program. Though States and territories shall determine which appliances may apply, covered appliances typically include clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, room air conditioners and water heaters.

Award(s): \$4 million, Ground Source Heat Pumps

Location: Blaine

Blaine County School District #61 in Blaine received \$4 million in funding to retrofit a number of schools with a combination of direct-use geothermal heating and ground-source heat pump systems to provide cooling.

Award(s): \$350,000, Industrial Assessment Centers and Plant Best Practices

Location: Boise

Idaho Office of Energy Resources in Boise received \$350,000 is demonstrating the value of permanent on-site energy engineering and energy management projects. Idaho is also determining the benefits and costs of a unique utility-industry Combined Heat and Power (CHP) partnership project by completing an investment-grade feasibility study that integrates CHP with additional energy efficiency assessments.

RENEWABLE ENERGY – 11 projects totaling \$29 million

Developing the clean renewable resources in order to double our supply of renewable energy and boost domestic renewable manufacturing capacity. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/renewableenergy.htm>.

Award(s): 7 payments totaling \$15.9 million from DOE / Treasury, 1603 Payments for Renewable Energy Generation

Location: Statewide

* For current number of 1603 awards, see weekly update at <http://www.treas.gov/recovery/1603.shtml>

- **Cassia Gulch Wind Park, LLC, Boise - \$9.2 million**
Cassia Gulch Wind Park, LLC, in Boise received \$9.2 million for a wind facility.
- **Cassia Wind Farm, LLC, Boise - \$5.1 million**
Cassia Wind Farm, LLC, in Boise received \$5.1 million for a wind facility.
- **DF-AP #1, LLC, Gooding - \$1.5 million**
DF-AP #1, LLC, in Gooding received \$1.5 million for a biomass project.
- **Pine Creek Properties, LC, Swan Valley - \$23,000**
Pine Creek Properties, LC, in Swan Valley received \$23,000 for a solar electricity project.
- **Adam Christopher, LLC, Idaho Falls - \$14,000**
Adam Christopher, LLC, in Idaho Falls received 14,000 for a small wind facility.

- **Hailstone Drywall & Acoustics, Montpelier - \$12,000**
Hailstone Drywall & Acoustics in Montpelier received \$12,000 for a small wind facility.
- **Inovus Solar, Boise - \$428**
Inovus Solar in Boise received \$428 for a solar electricity project.

Award(s): \$3 million from DOE / Treasury, Clean Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit (48C)

Location: Pocatello

Nordic Windpower received \$3 million to establish manufacturing operations for an innovative wind turbine technology that uses two blades and a patented teeter-hub technology that dampens loads. The end product will result in a lightweight turbine that is at least 10% less costly to manufacture, install, operate and maintain than competing systems for renewable wind energy production.

Award(s): \$2 billion from DOE / Treasury, Loan Guarantee Program

Location: Idaho Falls

The Department of Energy has offered AREVA a conditional commitment for a \$2 billion loan guarantee to support the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The loan guarantee authority for the project comes from the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The company estimates the project creates approximately 1,000 jobs.

Award(s): \$16 million from DOE / Treasury, Loan Guarantee Program

Location: Pocatello

Nordic Windpower USA was offered a conditional commitment for a \$16 million loan guarantee to support the expansion of its assembly plant in Pocatello, Idaho to produce its one megawatt wind turbine.

Award(s): 2 totaling \$6.3 million, National Geothermal Database, Resource Assessment and Classification System

Location: Boise

Boise State University in Boise received two awards totaling \$6.3 million to digitize, organize and upload USGS, DOE demonstration project and CoreWall data into the NGDS.

Award(s): \$3.8 million, Validation of Innovative Exploration Technologies

Location: Boise

US Geothermal, Inc., in Boise received \$3.8 million to develop a methodology to identify faults within geothermal reservoirs.

MODERNIZING THE ELECTRIC GRID – 7 projects totaling \$51.6 million

Harnessing clean energy sources and integrating them onto a modernized electric grid, while giving consumers better choices and more control over their energy use. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/smartgrid.htm>.

Award(s): 2 totaling \$1.2 million, Enhancing State and Local Governments' Energy Assurance

Location: Hailey, Plummer

This project focuses on building regional energy assurance capability by enhancing inter- and intra-state coordination and cooperation during energy emergencies. This project funds states to update

or develop State Energy Assurance Plans incorporating new energy portfolios such as wind, renewable and biofuels. This project also funds cities to update or develop Energy Assurance Plans within the local areas. The two sets of funding are used to hire or retrain staff to build in-house expertise in dealing with Smart Grid technologies, critical energy infrastructure interdependencies and cyber-security.

- **Idaho Department Of Water Resources, Plummer - \$340,000**
The Idaho Department of Water Resources in Plummer received \$340,000 for the Local Energy Assurance Planning (LEAP) Initiative.
- **City of Hailey - \$83,000**
The City of Hailey received \$83,000 for the Local Energy Assurance Planning (LEAP) Initiative.

Award(s): 2 totaling \$49.2 million, Smart Grid Investment Grant Program (EISA 1306)
Location: Statewide

- **Idaho Power Company - \$47 million**
Idaho Power Company received \$47 million for a Smart Grid Investment Grant. The funds will be used to modernize the electric transmission and distribution infrastructure, including deploying a smart meter network for all 475,000 of the utility's customers.
- **M2M Communications - \$2.2 million**
M2M Communications received \$2.2 million for deployment of a Smart Grid compatible irrigation load control system in the central valley of California.

Award(s): 2 totaling \$1.2 million, Smart Grid Workforce Training
Location: Idaho Falls, Meridian

- **Key Training Corporation, Meridian - \$750,000**
Key Training Corporation in Meridian received \$750,000 to develop new training strategies, programs and delivery methods for the workers who install, maintain and operate the clean energy Smart Grid, including electrical line workers, substation technicians, system operators, smart meter technicians and transmission technicians. More than 2,500 electrical line workers over the next three years will gain the ability to build and maintain transmission lines and intelli-grid distribution systems.
- **Critical Intelligence, Inc., Idaho Falls - \$463,000**
Critical Intelligence, Inc., in Idaho Falls received \$463,000 to train energy sector information security employees to deal with targeted cyber attacks known as Advanced Persistent Threat and develop a twelve-week instructor-led online course that trains energy sector information security employees to detect and respond to targeting from and exploitation by sophisticated threat actors. The training fills gaps left by current trainings intended to provide information security know-how to the electric sector workforce.

Award(s): \$789,000, State Assistance on Electricity Policies

Location: Boise

Idaho Public Utilities Commission in Boise received \$789,000 for State Public Utility Commissions to assist in addressing its Recovery Act electricity workload by hiring staff trained to facilitate the review of time-sensitive requests approving electric utility expenditures.

TRANSPORTATION – 1 project totaling \$5.5 million

Investing in a new generation of advanced fuels and vehicles to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and revitalize domestic manufacturing. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/vehicles.htm>.

Award(s): \$5.5 million, Clean Cities Alternative Fuel and Vehicles (AFV) Grant Program

Location: Boise

Treasure Valley Clean Cities Coalition in Boise received \$5.5 million to install compressed natural gas infrastructure at its Boise and Nampa facilities, with a public pump in Boise and it will replace 28 diesel trucks with combined natural gas trucks.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP – 4 projects totaling \$423.1 million

Creating jobs and reducing the legacy cold war footprint of the Department of Energy and clean up the polluted land and water resources in communities. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/cleanup.htm>.

Award(s): \$29 million, INL Buried Waste Recovery Act Project

Location: Boise

Ch2m Wg Idaho, LLC, in Boise received \$29 million to help support the completion of the construction of two planned and two new facilities for retrieval of targeted waste from the Subsurface Disposal Area at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). This funding allows for earlier completion of targeted waste retrievals per the Record of Decision Operable Unit 7-13 / 14 and the Agreement to implement with the State of Idaho.

Award(s): \$1.5 million, INL D&D Recovery Act Project

Location: Boise

Ch2m Wg Idaho, LLC, in Boise received \$1.5 million to support the accelerated deactivation and decommissioning of nuclear and radiological facilities that no longer have a mission, along with supporting facilities. The project also accelerates the movement of spent fuel from wet storage to dry storage, allowing for fuel consolidation resulting in accelerated footprint reduction and an improved security position.

Award(s): 2 totaling \$203 million, INL TRU Waste Recovery Act Project

Location: Idaho Falls

Ch2m Wg Idaho, LLC, received \$198 million for the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Transuranic (TRU) Waste Recovery Act Project; Bechtel Bwxt Idaho received \$5.5 million. This project will support the treatment and shipment of 53 remote handled transuranic waste containers and 192 containers of mixed low-level waste from Idaho. It will also support the offsite shipment of contact-handled, mixed low-level waste currently in the Idaho National Laboratory inventory by the end of FY 2009 and treat and ship offsite contact-handled TRU waste from small sites.

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION – 11 projects totaling \$33.5 million

Renewing our commitment to science and innovation to ensure global competitiveness in the future. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/innovation.htm>.

Award(s): 2 totaling \$3 million, Advanced Materials RD&D in Support of EERE Needs to Advance Clean Energy Technologies and Energy-Intensive Process R&D

Location: Idaho Falls

- **Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho Falls - \$2 million**
Idaho National Laboratory in Idaho Falls received \$2 million for a project involving a water-gas-shift membrane reactor for high pressure hydrogen production.
- **Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho Falls - \$1 million**
Idaho National Laboratory in Idaho Falls received \$1 million for a project involving a modular hybrid plasma reactor and processes for low cost nanoparticle production.

Award(s): \$500,000, Enhance and Accelerate FEMP Service Functions to the Federal Government

Location: Idaho Falls

Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC, received \$500,000 to enhance technical assistance, communications, outreach and training to assist agencies with the increase in activity and investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy, water and green building projects across the federal government. Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) activities include compliance planning and decision support across the federal government, as well as a larger, more coordinated team that provides resource analysis, technical and business assistance and compliance assessments to facilitate goal achievement and performance of data centers and other energy intensive functions.

Award(s): 3 totaling \$2.9 million, Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) Technology R&D

Location: Idaho Falls

Idaho National Laboratory in Idaho Falls received three awards totaling \$2.9 million to fund R&D programs to support Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS). EGS R&D reduces the technical risk of creating and managing EGS reservoirs and provides tools to maintain high well production rates with low thermal drawdown, which will in turn encourage the private sector to exploit EGS technology for commercial-scale deployment.

Award(s): \$744,000, Enhanced Utilization of Isotope Facilities

Location: Idaho Falls

Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC, in Idaho Falls received \$744,000 to address national shortage of key isotopes by enhanced isotope production efforts and address investments in production and processing capabilities.

Award(s): \$19.5 million, Lab Call for Facilities and Equipment

Location: Idaho Falls

Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC, in Idaho Falls received \$19.5 million to support the development of a High Energy Battery Test Facility at the Idaho National Laboratory. The laboratory is for testing new battery technologies for use in cars and probing the obstacles to making cheaper, longer-lived and more powerful batteries.

Award(s): \$370,000 million, Nuclear Science Workforce

Location: Idaho Falls

Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC, in Idaho Falls received \$370,000 to support proposals for initiatives in Applications of Nuclear Science and Technology, aimed at research and development activities in nuclear science that are relevant to applications important to the nation.

Award(s): \$2.2 million, Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) / Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Round 1

Location: Boise

M2m Communications Corporation in Boise received \$2.2 million for a project involving a device that allows farmers to turn their equipment on or off based on preset parameters, or on demand. This device works anywhere in the world and allows access from a phone, smart phone, or computer to receive status reports or turn equipment on or off.

Award(s): \$6.6 million, Transportation Electrification

Location: Idaho Falls

Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC, in Idaho Falls received \$6.6 million for the Idaho National Laboratory's testing and analysis of electric vehicle usage and charging patterns in a simulated mature charging environment.

ENERGYEMPOWERS.GOV

Recovery Act Success Stories

Energy Empowers is a U.S. Department of Energy clean energy information service. Our team produces stories featuring the people and businesses that are fueling the energy transformation and economic recovery in America. For more stories from your state, go to energyempowers.gov/Idaho



Van Buren Elementary School, located in the Caldwell School District, is an energy-efficient building that educators use as a teaching tool for raising awareness about energy efficiency among students. | Photo courtesy Jennifer Swindell

CALDWELL

Idaho schools saving energy, educating students about efficiency

When Idaho officials decided to spend Recovery Act money to make their school buildings more energy efficient, it set off a chain reaction. Now, the project is creating more comfortable and safe learning environments for its students and providing them with examples of how to save energy. At the same time, it's saving taxpayers some dough.

The Idaho K-12 School Efficiency Project increases energy efficiency while saving precious education dollars, says schools superintendent Tom Luna. "It also provides a great opportunity for schools to incorporate lessons about energy education in the classroom," he says.

One example comes from Van Buren Elementary School, where teachers use their newly constructed school as an education tool for kindergarteners through eighth graders. Each student receives 10 hours of classroom lessons annually devoted to saving energy, says Jennifer Swindell, the district's public information officer. Science teachers coordinate lesson plans to teach the kids about a range of topics related to the school's construction, from the new carpet made of recycled materials to how the roof maximizes solar energy.

"Young children love science, and when they can actually see it in use, they get really excited," Jennifer says. "There are all of these hands-on things, like each classroom has recycle bins, so we're making recycling a common practice."

Many of the kids know more about energy efficiency than their parents and they're teaching the older generation about it at home,

Jennifer says.

The school's lower energy bills have also eased pressure during the economic downturn.

"The lower energy costs are amazing because we're saving energy in a small community that has a high unemployment rate," she says. "Yet, the community passed a bond to build this school on the promise we would save money."

Idaho's Office of Energy Resources will spend \$17.5 million in stimulus funds to make public schools more energy efficient. The K-12 School Efficiency Project will result in retrofits for all 703 school buildings in Idaho, including improvements such as new heating and cooling systems.

The Homedale School District's upgrades were completed in August. Its savings will positively impact students, allowing money to be used for more retrofits, classroom supplies and textbooks, superintendent Tim Rosandick says. The upgrades already in place will save an estimated \$13,750 per year, meaning the district will profit from the roughly \$16,000 in upgrades in less than two years. The district wouldn't have had a choice other than to pay the increasing energy costs had it not performed the tune-ups to its buildings, Tim says.

"It's difficult to predict where we would've had to cut," he says, "but it's common sense that a cost savings anywhere means you have more resources to allocate."

POCATELLO

Former construction worker who needed hope now delivers it

Joe Santino is overjoyed with his job as a weatherization installer and crew boss in southeastern Idaho not only because he finally has a way to pay his bills, but because he's helping people who find themselves in situations similar to the one he was in not too long ago.

Joe was laid off from his construction job — an industry in which he has 30 years of experience — just before Christmas in 2008. He says he put out hundreds of job applications through the Internet, local job services, in response to newspaper ads and via word-of-mouth searching. After three months, he had exhausted all of his savings, and his wife's job didn't pay enough to cover all of the expenses for Joe's family, which includes two of his four children who still live at home.

After trying his luck with a temp agency, Joe finally heard about Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency's opening for a weatherization worker.

"It involves doing mostly things I had done before, so I applied and got the job," he says. "I was stoked about it because it gave me a job, and I could start paying bills."

People are very appreciative of the work Joe's crew does to make their homes more energy-efficient, and he says some recipients just cry and hug them for helping keep their homes warm and helping them lower their energy bills.

"If I hadn't found work, well ... this job, it saved my life, my

family, my house,” Joe says.

A year ago, Joe had trouble paying his energy bills. Now, he helps people who often need assistance paying theirs.

“People going through what I went through can receive help from making their homes energy-efficient,” he says. “There is always another chance out there, so I tell them to never give up hope.”

SEICAA received \$1.7 million in stimulus funding for weatherization under the Recovery Act through March 2011.

POCATELLO

Weatherization program helps Idahoan cut energy bills

Helen Humphreys never thought she would be able to afford the upfront costs of making her home more energy-efficient. Helen lives in southeastern Idaho and relies on Social Security for her income. Her energy bills sometimes left her pinching pennies.

“My heating bills were quite high for a house this size, so I was a little alarmed,” she says about her circa 1951 home, which doesn’t even take up 1,000 square feet.

This year, though, the Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency had more funding than usual for its weatherization program because of \$1.7 million in stimulus funding it will spend through March 2011. The agency ran a newspaper ad that asked people who had problems with high-dollar energy bills to call them. Helen responded.

SEICAA installed nine energy-efficient windows, two new doors, insulation, and new smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. All of these improvements were made at no cost to Helen with money from the Recovery Act.

Helen says it’s a little early to predict exactly what her energy savings are going to be monthly, but even for the bill she just received — with only about half of a month of energy used being with the weatherization improvements installed — she saved \$24 in comparison to her bill at the same time in the previous year. This winter, Helen’s home consumes less energy yet feels warmer.

“I learn something new all the time, and I’m just glad that I got a chance to do this,” Sanchez says. “It seems like a growing field, and I would like to stay in it.”