



michigan suburbs alliance

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## **Energy Collaboration Nets \$30M for Detroit and Michigan**

FERNDALE--Michigan been awarded \$30 million in federal energy funds, Vice President Joe Biden announced today. The funds are part of the Department of Energy's Retrofit Ramp-Up Initiative, and Michigan's award is the second largest in the country. The award is the result of a unique collaboration between the State, its two largest cities and the Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office -- a project of the Michigan Suburbs Alliance, WARM Training Center and the Michigan Municipal League.

"There's no stopping metro Detroit when city and suburb work together" said Conan Smith, Executive Director of the Michigan Suburbs Alliance. "We innovate and we compete with the best in the nation."

In fact, only New York State received a larger grant in this highly competitive process.

The funds will be used to conduct "deep retrofits" in a variety of Michigan neighborhoods, benefiting both residential areas and commercial centers as well as government buildings. "Neighborhood sweeps" will introduce the programs to residents, including heavily subsidized energy audits and weatherization upgrades. For more substantial energy efficiency projects, the program will provide innovative credit financing for homeowners who want to take the next step. The program expects to impact more than 10,000 homes over the three-year grant period.

The Retrofit Ramp-Up Initiative is funded via the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, a policy crafted under the leadership of Congressman John Dingell (D-MI) who was instrumental in advancing the collaborative's application at the federal level.

The Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office will manage the residential components of the grant for Detroit and its suburbs. According to Smith, the funds will be targeted toward denser neighborhoods along the major transit corridors in the region that included a mix of incomes and uses.

"We have an opportunity with this grant to help advance the entire sustainable development outlook for the region," he said. "We're not going to let these funds go without ensuring they leverage greater economic diversity and social equity. Not a dime gets spent that won't be recycled in our economy in some way many times over."

Over the coming weeks, the Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office will release additional information on how communities and neighborhoods can participate in the program. Interested communities can contact the Office at 248-546-2380.