**Alliance to Save Energy Stimulus Package Recommendations**
**December 1, 2008**

**The following recommendations involve existing programs where funding can be rolled out quickly and funds have the potential to be expended fully within two years after the effective date of the stimulus package.** .

## Energy Management/Infrastructure Projects at the State and Local Levels

- Appropriate $2 billion in grants for energy efficiency projects in state and local facilities. The funding would pass through the U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program, and a four percent tariff would accrue to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for administration of the grants. Studies indicate that the potential for energy efficiency investments in the public sector is between $35 and $70 billion, and that less than 25 percent of all state buildings have had comprehensive energy-efficiency retrofits, which suggests that the potential for job creation and energy savings is quite large.

- Authorize and appropriate $3 billion in grant funding for the repair, renovation, and modernization of public schools, with the requirement that a certain percentage of funding received be used for improvements that make use of specified energy efficiency and green building standards. The grants would be made through the Department of Education. Similar legislation passed the House in the 110th Congress as part of larger legislation – in H.R. 3021, *The 21st Century Green High-Performance Public Schools Facilities Act* and in H.R. 7110, *The Job Creation and Unemployment Relief Act of 2008*. In those bills energy efficiency improvements were one of several optional uses of the grant money.

- Appropriate $40 million in workforce training programs under the Green Jobs Act, as authorized in H.R. 6, *The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007*. The programs would be administered by the Department of Labor and would train displaced and unemployed workers to retrofit foreclosed homes that had been acquired by the Department of the Treasury under the financial rescue plan.

- Appropriate $1.4 billion to expand the national Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) program to meet the goal of the President-elect of weatherizing 1,000,000 homes each year. The funding will be used to expand infrastructure that is already in place to lower energy costs and thereby increase the purchasing power of low income consumers.

## Federal Energy Management Projects to Provide Jobs in Construction

- Authorize and appropriate $1.2 billion to fund audits, metering and energy efficiency improvements in federal buildings. The appropriations would be administered through the Department of Energy, which would retain two percent of the funds as a tariff to improve staffing and fund the administration of the program. The funds should be available on a first-come, first-served basis, and should be available for 24 months after the effective date of the stimulus bill. The funding would contribute to the achievement of President-Elect Obama's plan to reduce federal energy use by 45 percent and, ultimately, to attain carbon neutral buildings within a decade.

- ***No cost proposal:*** The new Administration should take immediate administrative steps to direct FEMP to clear the energy efficiency upgrade project "backlog" of $1.3 billion in major energy efficiency projects. The Administration should consider providing a 25 percent match in Treasury funds if projects are implemented within 24 months of the effective date of the stimulus bill. In 2006, FEMP implemented more than $400 million in projects in a concerted six-to-nine-month "blitz," so there is a precedent for concerted action to clear the pipeline, and a history of positive results.

**National Campaign to Help Consumers to Save Money on Energy Bills**

- Appropriate $45 million, through existing authorities in EPAct '05 under the Public Information Initiative, for a one-year education campaign to help consumers to lower their energy bills. The campaign, which would be administered by the Department of Energy, would target the general American public, from students to seniors. It would encourage energy efficiency and conservation actions that can deliver work to home contractors, retailers, and manufacturers of efficient appliances and vehicles.

**Tax Credits**

- ***No cost proposal:*** Make all renewable and energy efficiency tax credits refundable for twelve months starting with the effective date of the stimulus package; this will require a minor legislative change and will drive investment, employment and manufacture of appliances at the highest efficiency levels by making the recently extended credits refundable for a twelve month period