## ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN FEDERAL BUILDINGS AND SCHOOLS – FIRST STEPS

Sunday, December 07, 2008 - Save taxpayer money and put people back to work! In his address on the economy yesterday, President-elect Obama called for a massive effort to make public buildings more energy-efficient. Today, on 'Meet the Press' he reemphasized the need to jump start the economy and create the path to long-term sustainable economic growth.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy are key to combating climate change, creating jobs now, and eliminating unnecessary public and private spending on energy which goes right up the chimney.

*Where do we start?*

### *FEDERAL BUILDINGS: ZERO ENERGY WHITE HOUSE*

President Obama should take the lead by publishing his 12 month plan for making the White House a zero energy building. Online, he should post current energy usage for the White House, the results of his home energy audit, the steps he will take to reduce and eliminate White House fossil fuel energy usage through a staged plan of home sealing, insulation, energy efficient light bulbs, energy efficient pumps, geothermal heat pumps, solar hot water heating and photovoltaic energy production. Finally, the President should purchase a plug in electric vehicle which draws its energy from the solar cells installed at the White House.

### *SCHOOLS: ENERGYSMART SCHOOLS*

President-elect Obama should call on each school in America to create an school energy board including students, teachers, parents, school administrators and other community groups. School energy boards should design a plan to reduce energy usage at their school and ultimately to realize the goal of zero energy schools. With congressional approval, each school can count on getting a starter grant of $25 per student in federal funding to support investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements at their school. With 50 million students in 97,000 primary and secondary schools in America, that would be an investment of $1.3 billion, or approximately $12,800 per school.

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