



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
NEVADA STATE OFFICE OF ENERGY**

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State Receives \$5 Million for Energy Retrofitting Homes in Nevada

The U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") notified the Nevada State Office of Energy ("NSOE") today that it will receive \$5 million for the Nevada Retrofit Initiative ("NRI"), which aims to retrofit at least five percent of all single family Nevada residences with energy efficiency upgrades by 2021. Nevada received the highest award of any state or territory as part of the DOE's \$28.5 million competitive grant for state energy efficiency projects.

"We are so excited to get this grant to help out Nevada and expand the Home Performance with Energy Star Program in our state," said Catherine Gowen, NSOE grants & project analyst. "It will strengthen Nevada's residential building retrofit market and could potentially generate more than two million MMBtu in annual energy savings by 2021, create or preserve more than 2,400 jobs, and contribute an economic impact of \$220 million."

The NRI will focus efforts on the major Nevada metropolitan areas of Clark and Washoe Counties, although it will provide transferability to other areas of the state. Details are being worked out and the program is expected to be launched late this year. Information will be communicated statewide through stakeholder participation, project outreach and other activities.

Participants will need to get an energy audit from a certified auditor, pay for recommended upgrades that will make their home 20 percent more efficient, get a second audit for verification, and then receive a 20 percent rebate back on their initial investment up to \$1,000. Additional incentives may become available from contractors, utility companies and the federal government.

The initial target includes 50,000 homes with 80 percent in Southern Nevada and 20 percent in Northern Nevada. More than 250 homes are targeted for 2011, 500 in 2012, and 1,000 in 2013. The target market will increase a minimum of 25 percent per year starting in 2014.

Participants in the NRI, including Nevada's two largest counties and their respective cities, are Home Free Nevada, Nevada State Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, the Nevada System of Higher Education, NV Energy, Southwest Gas, the Public Utilities Commission, the Nevada Energy Economy Strike Force, and the NSOE, which represent a diversity of project expertise and leadership at the local, state, and national level.

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The NRI will enable Nevada to demonstrate innovative and impactful project models that are highly transferrable, both statewide and nationally.

“The Energy Office is confident that this project will fundamentally transform Nevada’s energy markets in a way that makes home retrofits an attractive option for most people,” NSOE Director Jim Groth said. “The NRI is built on a foundation of public-private partnership, experience and expertise, and will result in a profound economic and market transformation for Nevada.”

According to the DOE, “existing techniques and technologies in energy efficiency retrofitting – such as air-tight ducts, insulation and caulking, efficient and properly installed heating and cooling systems, and energy control systems – can reduce energy use up to 40 percent.”

For more information on the NRI, call the NSOE at (775) 687-1850.

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