

In July 2008, green building legislation was passed in Special Session House Bill 1, now Act 1 of 2008. The Act incorporates high-performance building incentives allocating \$25,000,000 for loans or grants as well as several other energy related programs. Homeowners and small businesses will be eligible for incentives to build energy efficient structures or renovate existing buildings to improve energy efficiency. The implementation will take place sometime in 2009.

Also included among the new \$650 million fund is a \$500 million that provides:

- \$165 million for loans and grants to spur the development of alternative and renewable energy projects (except solar) among businesses and local governments.
- \$100 million to provide loans, grants and rebates that cover up to 35 percent of the costs residential consumers and small businesses incur for installing for solar energy technology.
- \$80 million in grants and loans for economic development projects in the solar sector.
- \$40 million to the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority to support early stage activities, such as incubator support services, translational and early stage research in startup businesses that develop and implement energy efficiency technologies.
- \$25 million for wind energy and geothermal projects
- \$40 million (\$10 million annually for four years) to support LIHEAP so the commonwealth can help low-income customers manage higher energy prices, severe weather conditions, or disasters.
- \$25 million for pollution control technology to help energy generators meet state and federal standards.