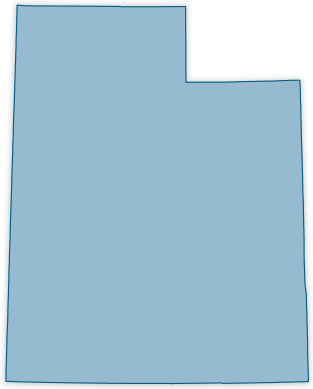
Department of Energy

Recovery Act State Memos

Utah



For questions about DOE's Recovery Act activities, please contact the DOE Recovery Act Clearinghouse:
1-888-DOE-RCVY (888-363-7289), Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Time

https://recoveryclearinghouse.energy.gov/contactUs.htm.

All numbers and projects listed as of June 1, 2010

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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY • UTAH RECOVERY ACT SNAPSHOT

Funding for selected DOE projects: $316.5 million

DOE Recovery Act projects in Utah: 60

Clean energy tax credits and grants: 2

For total Recovery Act jobs numbers in Utah go to www.recovery.gov

Utah has substantial natural resources, including oil, coal, natural gas, wind, geothermal, and solar power. The **American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)** is making a meaningful down payment on the nation's energy and environmental future. The Recovery Act investments in Utah are supporting a broad range of clean energy projects, from energy efficiency and the smart grid to wind and geothermal, alternative fuel vehicles, and the clean-up of legacy uranium processing sites. Through these investments, Utah's businesses, non-profits, and local governments are creating quality jobs today and positioning Utah to play an important role in the new energy economy of the future.

EXAMPLES OF UTAH FORMULA GRANTS

Program	State Energy Program	Weatherization Assistance Program	Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants	Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate Program
Award (in millions)	$35.4	$37.9	$27.6	$2.6
	The Utah Department of Natural Resources has received $35.4 million to invest in state-level energy efficiency and renewable energy priorities.	The State of Utah has received $37.9 million to scale-up existing weatherization efforts in the state, creating jobs, reducing carbon emissions and saving money for Utah's low-income families. Over the course of the Recovery Act, Utah expects to weatherize nearly 4,500 homes.	Thirty-four communities in Utah have received a total of $27.6 million to develop, promote, implement, and manage local energy efficiency programs.	Utah has received $2.6 million to offer consumer rebates for purchasing certain ENERGY STAR® appliances, which reduce energy use and save money for families, while helping the environment and supporting the local economy.

EXAMPLES OF UTAH COMPETITIVE GRANTS AND TAX CREDITS

Award	$120.1 million	$104.9 million	$53.9 million	$33 million	$14.9 million
	Milford Wind Corridor Phase I, LLC was awarded a **1603 payment for renewable energy generation** of **$120.1 million** for a wind farm.	**EnergySolutions Federal Services, Inc.** was awarded **$104.9 million** for the **Moab Recovery Act Project** to relocate 16 million tons of uranium mill tailings at a former uranium processing facility near Moab.	**The Western Electricity Coordinating Council** was awarded **$53.9 million** from the **Smart Grid Investment Grant Program** to install parts and create systems necessary for a smart grid.	**Thermo No. 1 BE-01, LLC** was awarded a **1603 payment for renewable energy generation** of **$33 million** to develop a geothermal facility.	**The Utah Clean Cities Coalition**, in Salt Lake City, was awarded **$14.9 million** from the **Clean Cities Alternative Fuel and Vehicles Grant Program** for compressed natural gas public fueling facilities that will help reduce the state's dependence on oil and limit carbon pollution.

Funding Allocation Table (Figure 1)

Total dollar amounts in this document are accurate as of June 1, 2010. Please note that Recovery Act Programs are ongoing and the dollar amounts are subject to change. Recipient locations are based on project sites rather than recipients' headquarters locations.

Recovery Act Pillar	Flagship Program Names & Funding Type[1]	Number of Selections	Selected Amount (in millions)[2]
Energy Efficiency	*Weatherization Assistance Program (F)*	1	$37.9
	State Energy Program (F)	1	$35.4
	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (F)	34	$27.6
	Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate (F)	1	$2.6
	Building Energy Efficiency (CM)	1	$0.0007
	TOTAL Energy Efficiency	38	$103.5
Renewable Energy	*Solar (CM)*	2	$1.3
	Wind (CM)	1	$0.06
	Geothermal (CM)	6	$12.0
	TOTAL Renewable Energy	9	$13.4
Electric Grid	*Smart Grid Investment and Demonstrations Project (CM)[3]*	1	$53.9
	State and Local Energy Assurance and Regulatory Assistance (F)	4	$1.7
	Smart Grid Workforce Training (CM)	2	$2.1
	Interconnection Transmission Planning and Analysis (F & CM)[3]	1	$14.5
	TOTAL Electric Grid	8	$72.2
Transportation	*Clean Cities Alternative Fuel and Vehicles Program (CM)*	1	$14.9
	TOTAL Transportation	1	$14.9
Carbon Capture and Storage	*Geologic Characterization Projects (CM)*	1	$3.8
	Research and Training (CM)	1	$0.3
	TOTAL Carbon Capture and Storage	2	$4.1
Environmental Cleanup	*Environmental Management Contracts (C)*	2	$108.4
	TOTAL Environmental Cleanup	2	$108.4
TOTAL - DOE Programs[4]		**60**	**$316.5**
Tax Credits/ Payments[5]	*Payments for Renewable Energy Generation in Lieu of Tax Credits (1603)*	2	$153.1
	TOTAL Tax Incentives	2	$153.1
TOTAL - DOE/Treasury + DOE		**62**	**$469.6**

[1]F=Formula Grant, CM=Competitive Grant, C=Contract

[2]"Selected" indicates DOE has selected a potential funding recipient, which begins the process of negotiating an agreement. This does not necessarily indicate that a final agreement has been reached.

[3]Projects may cross state boundaries, signifies HQ location.

[4]Total does not include administrative funds.

[5]Jointly administered by DOE and the U.S. Department of Treasury.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY – 38 projects totaling $103.5 million

Helping millions of American families cut utility bills by making homes and appliances more energy efficient, expanding the home efficiency industry in sales and manufacturing. For more information, visit http://www.energy.gov/recovery/energyefficiency.htm.

Award(s): $37.9 million, Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
Location: Statewide
Utah received $37.9 million to scale-up existing weatherization efforts in the state, create jobs, reduce carbon emissions and save money for Utah's low-income families. Over the course of the Recovery Act, Utah aims to weatherize nearly 4,500 homes. The Utah Weatherization Assistance Program, administered through nine government and non-profit agencies across the state, enables qualified low-income individuals and families to make their homes more energy efficient and reduce utility costs. Individuals, families, the elderly and the handicapped that are at, or below, 125 percent of the current federal poverty income level are eligible for help through the Weatherization Assistance Program. Both owner-occupied and rental units are eligible for weatherization.

Award(s): $35.4 million, State Energy Program (SEP)
Location: Statewide
The Utah Department of Natural Resources received $35.4 million to invest in state-level energy efficiency and renewable energy priorities. Utah is utilizing Recovery Act SEP funds to improve energy efficiency and renewable energy in residential, commercial, public education, transportation, school and government buildings. The state is providing financial incentives to low-income housing developments, as well as commercial and government buildings which perform energy efficiency upgrades. For instance, low-income housing units qualify for free insulation upgrades and builders working on new construction developments qualify for rebates if they build high-performance buildings. The SEP Utah Renewable Energy Rebate Program focused on the residential and small commercial sectors provides rebates for the installation of small-scale renewable energy projects. Utah is also using funding to collect more accurate data about potential renewable energy resources in the state which can be used to identify potential renewable energy zones.

Award(s): 34 totaling $27.6 million, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)
Location: Statewide
Recipients: Bountiful, Box Elder County, Cache County, Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Cottonwood Heights, Davis County, Draper, Iron County, Layton, Lehi, Logan, Murray, Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico & Utah, Ogden, Orem, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (Cedar City Band of Paiutes, Kanosh Band of Paiutes, Koosharem Band of Paiutes, Indian Peaks Band of Paiutes, and Shivwits Band of Paiutes), Provo, Riverton, Roy, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Sandy, South Jordan, St. George, Summit County, Taylorsville, Tooele County, Utah County, Utah State Energy Office, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation Utah, Ute Mountain Tribe of the Ute Mountain Reservation Colorado New Mexico & Utah, Washington County, West Jordan, West Valley

Thirty-four communities in Utah received a total of $27.6 million to develop, promote, implement and manage local energy efficiency programs.

This project is to assist states, U.S. territories, Indian tribes, counties and cities to develop, promote, implement and manage localized energy efficiency programs through individual program grants. The

project funds programs which reduce fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable while maximizing cost savings for local and regional communities, and Indian tribes, reduce total energy use by recipient communities, and improve energy efficiency in the transportation, building, and other sectors. Examples of EECBGs include:

- **City of Salt Lake City - $2.1 million**
  EECBG-funded activities include conversion of city-owned street and traffic lights to LED fixtures, implementation of a Revolving Loan Fund to support businesses making energy efficiency upgrades and three transportation projects to reduce energy use by vehicles in the community. Salt Lake City is also providing solar hot water at a city facility, a comprehensive re-written city code to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy and the development of a comprehensive energy / carbon inventory and reduction strategy.

- **City of West Valley - $1.1 million**
  West Valley is nearing completion of its first LED streetlight project, which converts 210 high pressure sodium fixtures to LED technology. The project includes the new construction of fixtures, assemblies and poles. The poles and streetlights are owned and maintained by the city of West Valley. The city currently has approximately 6,600 streetlights and has calculated an annual reduction of about $33,000 in maintenance costs as a result of converting to LED fixtures. The projected energy savings over twenty years are expected to be as high as $79,000.

Award(s): $2.6 million, Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Programs
Location: Statewide
The State of Utah received $2.6 million to offer consumer rebates for purchasing certain ENERGY STAR® appliances, which reduce energy use and save money for families while supporting the local economy. Funding from this program assists state-level rebate programs by paying up to 50 percent of the administration costs of establishing and executing these types of programs. Though states and territories determine the appliances which apply, typically those include clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, room air conditioners and water heaters.

Award(s): $700, Buildings and Appliance Market Tranformation
Location: Midvale
The Buildings and Appliance Market Transformation project expands building codes, accelerates the pace of Appliance Standard test procedure development and improves the efficiency of commercial buildings' operations by training building operators and commissioning agents.

RENEWABLE ENERGY – 11 projects totaling $166.5 million

Developing the clean renewable resources in order to double our supply of renewable energy and boost domestic renewable manufacturing capacity. For more information, visit http://www.energy.gov/recovery/renewableenergy.htm.

Award(s): 2 payments totaling $153.1 million from DOE / Treasury, 1603 Payments for Renewable Energy Generation
Location: Milford
*For current number of 1603 awards, see the weekly update at http://www.treas.gov/recovery/1603.shtml

Utah received two 1603 payments for renewable energy generation totaling $153.1 million for wind and geothermal projects.

- **Milford Wind Corridor Phase I, LLC, Milford - $120.1 million**
  Milford Wind Corridor Phase I, LLC, in Milford received $120.1 million for a wind project.

- **Thermo No. 1 BE-01, LLC, - $33 million**
  Thermo No. 1 BE-01, LLC, received $33 million for a geothermal project.

Award(s): 5 totaling $7.4 million, Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) Technology R&D
Location: Provo, Salt Lake City
This project funds R&D programs to support Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS). EGS R&D reduces the technical risks of creating and managing EGS reservoirs and provides the tools to maintain high well-production rates with low thermal drawdown, which in turn will encourage the private sector to utilize EGS technology for commercial-scale deployment.

- **Novatek, Inc., Provo - $4.5 million**
  Novatek, Inc., in Provo received $4.5 million for EGS Technology R&D to develop drilling bits for hard rock environments.

- **University of Utah, Salt Lake City - $2.9 million**
  The University of Utah in Salt Lake City received four awards totaling $2.9 million for a variety of research and development projects, including the development of a new class of tracers for use in characterizing fracture networks in EGS reservoirs.

Award(s): 2 totaling $1.3 million, High-Penetration Solar Deployment
Location: Salt Lake City

- **Salt Lake Community College, Salt Lake City - $992,000**
  Salt Lake Community College in Salt Lake City received $992,000 for High-Penetration Solar Development. The purpose of the Rocky Mountain Solar Training Consortium (RMSTC) will be to accelerate wide-spread adoption of solar electrical technologies and curricula in the intermountain west and surrounding states.

- **Salt Lake City Corporation, Salt Lake City - $268,000**
  The Salt Lake City Corporation in Salt Lake City received $268,000 for High-Penetration Solar Deployment. It engages the Utah Public Service Commission, Rocky Mountain Power and solar

stakeholders to improve the business environment for solar. In particular this is being done by expanding the utility rebate program and allowing third-party power purchase agreements (PPAs).

Award(s): $61,000, Wind Energy Technology R&D and Testing
Location: Logan
Utah State University in Logan received $61,000 for Wind Energy Technology R&D and Testing. This project will increase in funding due to the existing Funding Opportunity Announcement to support the goal of "20 percent wind by 2030." The grants for additional research in wind technology will enhance the reliability and performance of wind systems.

Award(s): $4.6 million, Validation of Innovative Exploration Technologies
Location: Logan
Utah State University in Logan received $4.6 million for Validation of Innovative Exploration Technologies to test new combinations of geologic techniques for characterizing geothermal reservoirs.

MODERNIZING THE ELECTRIC GRID – 8 projects totaling $72.2 million

Harnessing clean energy sources and integrating them onto a modernized electric grid, while giving consumers better choices and more control over their energy use. For more information, visit http://www.energy.gov/recovery/smartgrid.htm.

Award(s): 3 totaling $848,000, Enhancing State and Local Governments' Energy Assurance
Location: Salt Lake City, Heber
This project focuses on building regional energy assurance capability by enhancing inter- and intra-state coordination and cooperation during energy emergencies. Funding allows states to update or develop State Energy Assurance Plans and allows cities to update or develop Energy Assurance Plans within the local areas. These plans incorporate new energy portfolios such as wind, biofuels and other types of energy efficient and renewable technology. The funding is used to hire or retrain staff to build in-house expertise for dealing with Smart Grid technologies, critical energy infrastructure interdependencies and cyber-security.

- **Utah Department of Natural Resources, Salt Lake City - $451,000**
  The Utah Department of Natural Resources in Salt Lake City received $451,000 for State Energy Assurance Planning to enhance inter- and intra-state coordination and cooperation during energy emergencies.

- **Salt Lake City Corporation, Salt Lake City - $297,000**
  Salt Lake City Corporation in Salt Lake City received $297,000 for the Local Energy Assurance Planning (LEAP) Initiative to enhance inter- and intra-state coordination and cooperation during energy emergencies.

- **City of Heber - $100,000**
  The city of Heber received $100,000 for the Local Energy Assurance Planning (LEAP) Initiative to enhance inter- and intra-state coordination and cooperation during energy emergencies.

Award(s): $14.5 million, Interconnection Transmission Planning and Analysis
Location: Statewide
WECC in Salt Lake City received $14.5 million for Interconnection Transmission Planning and Analysis to establish a process that will expand the depth, breadth, and coordination of existing sub-regional and regional planning processes. WECC is also producing long -range interconnection-wide transmission plans.

Award(s): $53.9 million, Smart Grid Investment Grant Program (EISA 1306)
Location: Salt Lake City
The Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) in Salt Lake City received $53.9 million for Smart Grid Investment Grant Programs (EISA 1306). This project involves the installation of new and replacement of older PMUs, creation of a communications system necessary to collect the data into data concentrators, and provisions of the applications needed to deliver interconnection-wide situational awareness and power system modeling.

Award(s): 2 totaling $2.1 million, Smart Grid Workforce Training
Location: Salt Lake City

- **Salt Lake Community College, Salt Lake City - $1.5 million**
  Salt Lake Community College in Salt Lake City received $1.5 million for Smart Grid Workforce Training. The college is developing a statewide Smart Grid sector workforce plan to serve the current and emerging infrastructure and to prepare Utah's workforce to participate in the national Smart Grid.

- **Salt Lake Community College, Salt Lake City - $614,000**
  Salt Lake Community College received $614,000 for Smart Grid Workforce Training to enhance training for line-worker technology, including metering and substation training. The project addresses the need for new training delivery models, meeting the need for statewide and regional entry-level and career training.

Award(s): $820,000, State Assistance on Electricity Policies
Location: Salt Lake City
The Public Service Commission of Utah in Salt Lake City received $820,000 for State Assistance on Electricity Policies to assist in addressing its Recovery Act electricity workload by hiring staff trained to facilitate the review of time-sensitive requests approving electric utility expenditures.

TRANSPORTATION – 1 project totaling $14.9 million

Investing in a new generation of advanced fuels and vehicles to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and revitalize domestic manufacturing. For more information, visit http://www.energy.gov/recovery/vehicles.htm.

Award(s): $14.9 million, Clean Cities Alternative Fuel and Vehicles (AFV) Grant Program
Location: Salt Lake City
The Utah Clean Cities Coalition in Salt Lake City received $14.9 million for the Clean Cities Alternative Fuel and Vehicles (AFV) Grant Program. This program creates sixteen new compressed natural gas (CNG) public fueling facilities, upgrades twenty-four CNG public fueling facilities, installs three new

liquefied / compressed natural gas (L / CNG) refueling facilities, three new biodiesel public refueling stations, and assists with incremental costs for 678 alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs).

CARBON CAPTURE & STORAGE – 2 projects totaling $4.1 million

Developing clean coal technologies so we can utilize America's coal resources sustainably. For more information, visit http://www.energy.gov/recovery/ccs.htm.

Award(s): $3.8 million, Geologic Sequestration Site Characterization
Location: Salt Lake City
The University of Utah in Salt Lake City received $3.8 million for Geologic Sequestration Site Characterization to identify the carbon dioxide storage potential of three deep-saline formations within a large Laramide-age structure. The proposed study includes detailed structural analysis of the large forced fold, as well as a characterization within the structure of the Dakota, Entrada and Weber saline formations and their overlying seals. A detailed risk assessment, mitigation management plan and reservoir-engineering plan is being developed for the region.

Award(s): $300,000, Geologic Sequestration Training and Research Grant Program
Location: Logan
Utah State University in Logan received $300,000 for the Geologic Sequestration Training and Research Grant Program. This team examines the nature and controls of caprock integrity on carbon dioxide sequestration systems by studying exhumed analogs where modern and ancient carbon dioxide flow has occurred. The team evaluates the nature of fracture systems and faults that cut low permeability mudrocks, siltstones and shales and examines the nature of mineralization within some of these exposures to evaluate how faults and fractures affect flow, and form leakage pathways across the rocks. This project supports several graduate and undergraduate students during the research effort.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP – 2 projects totaling $108.4 million

Creating jobs and reducing the legacy cold war footprint of the Department of Energy, and clean up the polluted land and water resources in communities. For more information, visit http://www.energy.gov/recovery/cleanup.htm.

Award(s): 2 totaling $108.4 million, Moab Recovery Act Project
Location: Moab
The scope of the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project in Moab is to relocate sixteen million tons of uranium mill tailings at the former uranium-ore processing facility near Moab, Utah, by rail, to an engineered disposal site 30 miles north at Crescent Junction, Utah. The current base project is scheduled for completion in 2028; the accelerated Recovery Act work scope reduces the project completion date by three years to 2025. The funding increases the quantity of mill tailings relocated by the end of fiscal year 2011 by two million tons by enabling the utilization of an additional twelve rail cars per day to transport the tailings.

- **EnergySolutions Federal Services, Inc., Moab - $104.9 million**
  EnergySolutions Federal Services, Inc., in Moab, received $104.9 million for the Moab Recovery Act Project which relocates sixteen million tons of uranium mill tailings to an engineered disposal site at Crescent Junction.

- **S & K Aerospace Inc., Moab - $3.4 million**
  S & K Aerospace, Inc., in Moab, received $3.4 million for the Moab Recovery Act Project to support the relocation of sixteen million tons of uranium mill tailings to an engineered disposal cell at Crescent Junction.

ENERGYEMPOWERS.GOV

Recovery Act Success Stories

Energy Empowers is a U.S. Department of Energy clean energy information service. Our team produces stories featuring the people and businesses that are fueling the energy transformation and economic recovery in America.
For more stories from your state, go to energyempowers.gov/Utah

Fourteen rural towns in Utah are upgrading streetlights with LEDs. | Photo courtesy of Heber Light and Power

Shining energy-saving LEDs on Utah starry nights

Utah is known for its magnificent night skies, where stargazers can catch a glimpse of constellations or a rogue shooting star. Now some rural towns have found a way to create even better views—and conserve energy.

This summer, thanks to an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) from the Utah State Energy Program worth over $1 million, 14 rural communities across the state are replacing streetlights with efficient light-emitting diodes (LEDs).

About 2,500 streetlights will be replaced and could save the towns 20 percent to 50 percent on electricity bills.

"We put a lot of energy into trying to manage the demand side," says Cathryn Collis, program manager for Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS), the nonprofit agency that spearheaded the grant application for the towns. "And conservation is the cheapest new energy source."

Plus, LEDs give off a softer, more even glow, which is more conducive while gazing up at the stars. "They love the night sky with these lamps," Cathryn adds. "It's not so washed out."

A joint effort

UAMPS is a nonprofit agency based in Salt Lake City that provides wholesale electricity to 52 community-owned power systems throughout the West, including towns in Utah.

The agency applied for the competitive EECBG grant on behalf of the 14 towns, including Eagle Mountain, located 40 miles outside Salt Lake City, and Hurricane, in the southwest part of the state.

"We looked at the impact to the people and the energy savings and, of course, the bottom line: the dollars saved," says Jerriann Ernstsen, block grant program manager for the Utah State Energy Program.

Retrofitting 2,503 streetlights with LEDs will reduce energy use by an estimated 63 percent, or about 335,000,000 watts annually, save approximately $26,800 per year, and cut greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 37 percent for the state.

Ernstsen says collaboration was important for the towns because they typically have too small a staff to go after opportunities like this. "Sometimes their staff is a recorder, or they only a work one day," she says.

Towns received anywhere from $33,000 to $270,000 to replace the streetlights, a task being undertaken by the towns' municipals crews over the summer.

Better all around

LED lights save energy and money, but they also reduce light pollution, according to Utah Skies, a nonprofit astronomy organization.

"We are losing our heritage of starry nights," according to the website. "[Misused] artificial light in the night sky threatens to destroy the spectacular views the heavens offer."

NASA reports Utahans can catch a partial eclipse of the moon on June 26, a perfect night for those in the retrofitted towns to pull out their telescopes.

UAMPS purchased the LEDs from BetaLED, a division of Ruud Lighting, Inc. in Racine, Wis., which has seen a boost in business as cities tap into their Recovery Act funds to purchase energy-efficient fixtures for roadways, parking lots, and buildings. Read about BetaLED here.

CLEARFIELD

New weatherization training center opens in Utah

Most warehouses are filled with items such as equipment, boxes and food. But walk into the Intermountain Weatherization Training Center's warehouse in Clearfield, Utah, and you see something unexpected: a life-size, 1,280-square-foot house with two floors, three bedrooms, a living room and working appliances.

What looks like an idyllic house, with its siding, rustic brick and a silver mailbox, is the state's latest comprehensive teaching tool for those in the weatherization business.

Funded in part with $200,000 of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, the new demonstration house is being used to train weatherization workers to find ways to make homes of

The Recovery Act…

•Increased Utah's weatherization assistance program workforce from 50 to 180 people

•Provided $38 million for weatherization efforts

•Enabled the state's eight agencies to weatherize 2,200 more homes in 2009, compared to 1,300 in 2008

The Utah weatherization assistance program built a new demonstration house to train weatherization workers. The Intermountain Weatherization Training Center is located in a warehouse in Clearfield, Utah. I Photo courtesy of Intermountain Weatherization Training Center

low-income residents more energy efficient.

"We created a life-size facility that [the students] can go in," says Michael Johnson, program manager for Utah's weatherization assistance program. "We have attic bypasses, old and new windows, good and bad floors and good and bad walls."

The house—set up in a 21,000-square-foot warehouse in the Freeport Center— is giving workers the chance to evaluate real issues residents are facing in their homes. They crawl into spaces to investigate leaky duct work and examine walls to see what proper insulation should look like.

"They go on a treasure hunt to find the different problems," Johnson says. "And we can throw them different curve balls. We can change things at literally at the flip of a switch."

Patching up areas and upgrading appliances can save homeowners up to 35 percent on their utility bills. Assistance is available for families earning up to 150 percent of the federal poverty level —which is about $44,000 a year for a family of four.

Workers from the state's eight local agency groups--including a community action agency, a county government, a county housing authority and five associations of governments--are the first round of trainees to attend the courses, which include a two-day energy auditing course, a one-day lead based paint course and a mechanical training course.

"You are limited to what you can learn when you train in a client's house," says Tony Schleick, a weatherization worker for Utah's Tri-County Weatherization, who took the two-day energy auditing course. "You can physically touch the problems in this home."

Now when he goes into someone's home, Schleick says, he knows exactly where and how to "tighten the home."

The demo house helps workers perform their jobs more efficiently, but it also trains workers faster.

"It will allow us to essentially, at the drop of a hat, provide comprehensive training that was not available before, because sometimes it would take us weeks to find a client's home to train people," says Johnson. "We can do in two or three days here what we could do in two to three weeks before."

Eventually, Johnson says, training will be extended to those from colleges, utility companies, the construction industry and across the region. About 180 people will be trained or retrained over the next six months.