

Securing Our Nation's Energy Future

The President has shown his commitment to America's energy and economic security. During his first six months in office, the President proposed the first balanced and comprehensive energy plan in a generation. Since then, the President has called on Congress to pass his National Energy Policy to modernize and improve our electricity grid for the future, reduce our reliance on foreign sources of energy, protect the environment and increase conservation, improve energy efficiency, and expand the use of new technologies and renewable energy sources.

Since 2001, President Bush has:

- Completed implementation of nearly 75% of the more than 100 recommendations contained in the President's comprehensive National Energy Policy, such as increasing electricity reliability research and development to help prevent electricity disruptions and filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to its full capacity of 700 million barrels. The Administration continues to work with Congress on the energy legislation needed to carry out the remaining recommendations;
- Launched important initiatives to develop the next generation of clean and affordable energy production, including \$1.7 billion over five years to develop hydrogen and fuel cell technologies, \$1.4 billion through 2005 for clean coal research, and additional funding for nuclear and fusion power research;
- Proposed over \$1.1 billion through 2005 to improve the energy efficiency of nearly 500,000 homes of low-income families; and
- Accelerated remediation of DOE's nuclear waste sites, which are now scheduled to be cleaned up 35 years sooner than previously expected and will save taxpayers about \$50 billion.

The President's 2005 Budget provides significant funding increases for research and development of clean energy resources, including increases to build and operate the world's first zero-emissions coal-fueled power plant and expand research on hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. It includes:

- A \$303 million (53%) increase in funding for establishing a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, and a proposed new funding mechanism to ensure the facility can begin accepting waste on schedule in 2010;
- \$291 million to continue the President's commitment to increase funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program by \$1.4 billion over the next 10 years in order to cut the utility bills of 1.2 million low-income families while conserving energy. The President's FY 2005 Budget proposes a 28% increase over 2004 funding. The FY 2005 funding will improve the energy efficiency of an additional 119,000 homes of low-income families;
- A total of \$91 million, a \$10 million (12%) increase, to lead a national effort to modernize and expand the Nation's electricity delivery system. The effort includes research and development investments in electricity transmission technology to ensure a more reliable and robust electricity supply and help avoid electricity blackouts;

- \$237 million for the FutureGen project to create the world's first coal-fired, nearly emissions-free electricity and hydrogen generation power plant that, when operational, will be the cleanest coal-fired power plant in the world;
- A total of \$876 million for energy conservation and efficiency. This funding includes research and development to improve efficiency and reliability in buildings, transportation, and industry, and investments of \$291 million – \$64 million (28%) increase – in energy-efficiency improvements to the homes of about 119,000 low-income families;
- \$375 million, an increase of \$18 million, for research and development to reduce the cost of renewable energy technologies such as wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass;
- Improved energy security by meeting the President's commitment to fill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to 700 million barrels in 2005;
- Expanding scientific knowledge through increased investments in the Nation's scientific user facilities and in cutting-edge research and development, including \$437 million for nanotechnology and information technology in 2005; and
- \$7.2 billion over ten years in energy tax incentives for alternative and renewable fuels, energy conservation and efficiency, and emissions-free energy. This figure also includes two new proposals that would facilitate the transition to competitive wholesale electricity markets.

For Other Information About the President's Accomplishments and Proposals:

FY 2005 Budget

Department of Energy: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/energy.html>

Clear Skies

Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov/clearskies/>

Energy

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/energy/>

Environment

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/environment/>