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HOME ENERGY AUDITS FUNDED BY STIMULUS PACKAGE: WASHINGTON – On March 26th, Vice President Joe Biden and Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced plans to invest \$3.2 billion in energy efficiency and conservation projects in U.S. cities, counties, states, territories, and with Native American tribes. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, funded by President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will provide formula grants for **projects that reduce total energy use and fossil fuel emissions**, and improve energy efficiency nationwide.

"These investments will save taxpayer dollars and create jobs in communities around the country," said Vice President Biden. "Local leaders will have the flexibility in how they put these resources to work – but we will hold them accountable for making the investments quickly and wisely to spur the local economy and cut energy use."

The funding will support **energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits in residential and commercial buildings**, the development and implementation of advanced building codes and inspections, and the creation of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements. Other activities eligible for use of grant funds include transportation programs that conserve energy, projects to reduce and capture methane and other greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, renewable energy installations on government buildings, energy efficient traffic signals and street lights, deployment of Combined Heat and Power and district heating and cooling systems, and others.

SAVE ENERGY..... GO SAILING..... Here is a great idea which goes to the heart of any sailor here in SF which is excerpted from an article written by Bruce Mulligan, and which appeared in Green Energy news March 11, 2009

"A RETURN TO GREEN SHIPPING: In the U.S., roughly 50 percent of the population lives within 50 miles of a coast. It seems likely that around the globe that statistic is repeated with perhaps even a higher portion living near the seas. High concentrations of population mean high levels of commerce and economic activity, which means high levels of the transport of goods and materials between population centers along those coasts

Before there were roads, railways and engines to power vehicles, the transport of goods between coastal cities was largely by way of waterways and the open ocean. Shipping goods was "green" too. Billowing white sails propelled ships from port to port without a drop of fuel or a plume of emissions.....

For the rest of this article go to (<http://www.green-energy-news.com/arch/nrgs2009/20090021.html>)

But, sailing cargo ships is not just a romantic dream...THE U.S. MARINE HIGHWAY BILL OF 2009 is being presented to congress, which intends to stimulate exactly this kind of energy efficient system. That's right replace all those trucks on the highways with sailing ships..... Check it out.

Green Ships <http://www.greenships.org>, and Santa Maria Shipowning & Trading <http://www.santamariashipping.com>

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