

# Federal Investments Catalyze Innovative Green Projects in Michigan



Michigan communities are struggling financially due to job and population losses. At the same time, the state faces a monumental challenge to reduce and diversify its energy consumption. We spend approximately \$20 billion per year on imported fuels. Those dollars could be better utilized if used to support local economies and Michigan companies that are developing and manufacturing cutting-edge energy solutions.

Local government leaders have taken the lead in implementing clean energy solutions to save taxpayer dollars and spur community reinvestment. The city of Greenville established a creative partnership with a solar panel company, providing demonstration installations in public facilities while the company invested nearly half a billion dollars in manufacturing facilities. The city of Farmington Hills built a green city hall, reducing energy bills dramatically while educating the public about a range of renewable and energy efficiency technologies. Nearly 200 local governments have taken on energy improvements in the past two years.

Federal grant and technical assistance programs have enabled cash-strapped governments to make the necessary initial investments to stimulate economic development and create jobs. Michigan has a number of creative and nationally recognized green partnerships, including:

The Michigan **Green Communities Challenge**, a collaborative program of the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Energy Office, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan Townships Association, and the Michigan Association of Counties that encourages and recognizes community progress towards sustainability.

The **Midwest Regional Sustainability Network**, which builds connections between local governments and universities working towards sustainability in the states of Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

## Key Federal Programs That Support Michigan's Green Communities:

*Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)*

*State Energy Program*

*HUD/DOT/EPA Interagency Sustainable Communities Initiative*

*Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Competitive Grants*

**Better Buildings for Michigan**, a partnership between the state and businesses, cities, and non-profit organizations to increase energy efficiency of residential and commercial buildings.

**Michigan Saves**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to making energy improvements easy and affordable via the Home Energy Loan Program.

**Regional Energy Collaboratives** in both the Detroit and Traverse City regions that pool resources and leverage additional financial and technical resources to implement public energy projects.

Continued federal investment in Michigan's Green Communities is essential to make the most of the positive progress of the past two years.