



REEP and HOME STAR Talking Points

- We need support on Capitol Hill for two critically important public policy initiatives.
- The first is the REEP legislation that was passed by the House of Representatives as part of the Waxman-Markey climate bill. This widely supported program is also included in the Senate climate bill. We urgently need to pass this national energy efficiency plan to stimulate new jobs that cannot be outsourced overseas.
- The second important initiative is HOME STAR, a federal program under consideration by the White House that provides direct incentives to consumers who invest in improving the energy efficiency of their homes.
- Using a combination of public incentives and private investment, HOME STAR can stimulate a strong market for weatherization and home energy retrofitting. Consumer demand for these services will create good jobs for American workers over the next two years to offset job losses in construction and manufacturing.
- Construction workers and companies that make building materials have been particularly hard hit by the recession. Unemployment for construction workers is now over 17 percent, and there's still incredibly weak demand for new buildings. Let's put these people back to work making American homes and businesses more energy efficient.
- Home energy retrofitting is labor-intensive work typically done by small to medium-sized companies. It uses building materials and equipment that can be made in American mills and factories. And the skills required can be obtained by any experienced construction worker in very little time. These are good, long-term jobs with high pay.
- Retrofitting homes will reduce energy bills for American homeowners. Cost-effective upgrades like insulation, caulking and duct sealing can reduce energy waste in most homes by 20 to 40 percent, and over time the energy savings can offset the cost of the work.
- Retrofitting homes also will reduce our national carbon footprint. Home energy use accounts for 21 percent of U.S. carbon emissions – twice as much as passenger cars. Reducing household energy waste will have a huge positive impact on the environment.
- Members of America's Home Performance industry are ready to take on the challenge of training new workers and growing our businesses to meet escalating demand.
- This is not a bailout, but a smart use of public funds to put the private sector to work.
- REEP and HOME STAR are good for America – and good for the planet.

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