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**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
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## **DEP EXTENDS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NEW PROGRAM TO HELP COMMUNITIES CUT ENERGY COSTS**

**HARRISBURG** – The public has two additional weeks to comment on a new grant program that will help local governments and non-profit groups reduce energy costs and promote conservation, Department of Environmental Protection Secretary John Hanger said today.

“As with any new program, we want to ensure that those who will benefit have a strong voice in making it operate in the best manner possible,” said Hanger. “We are extending the comment deadline to allow for more feedback from the public and local government officials to make sure the state is using its share of the recovery funding as effectively and efficiently as possible.”

As a result of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, more than \$23 million will be made available to local governments and non-profit entities in Pennsylvania through the new Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program.

“Energy efficiency not only makes environmental sense, but it also provides an additional funding source for municipalities facing tough budgetary challenges,” said Hanger. “Reducing energy costs means more funding will be available for local projects, which can stimulate the economy through the purchasing of local goods and the hiring of local workers. It is one small step that can pay multiple dividends.”

Guidelines for the grant program are available for the public to review and comment at [www.recovery.pa.gov](http://www.recovery.pa.gov) under the heading “Where is your money going?” and then by clicking on “Energy Independence.” The opening date for applications has not yet been set.

Comments will be accepted until Friday, May 29, and should be sent via e-mail to [epecbgcomments@state.pa.us](mailto:epecbgcomments@state.pa.us) or to Kerry Campbell, DEP Office of Energy and Technology Development, 15th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg, Pa. 17105.

To learn more about how the federal economic stimulus will benefit communities across Pennsylvania, visit [www.recovery.pa.gov](http://www.recovery.pa.gov).

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