

Washington, D.C. - Congressman John Barrow (GA-12) announced today that the Department of Energy (DOE) is awarding \$500,000 in funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to the Savannah-based Energy Resources Division of the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority for industrial energy efficiency projects.

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“Energy efficiency is good for the environment and good for the bottom line for businesses in our area,” said Barrow. “Businesses that save money can hire more employees, and that's our biggest concern right now - getting folks back to work.”

“To remain globally competitive, American industry needs to be energy efficient. The funding for industrial energy efficiency technologies announced today will support a robust American industrial sector and help to usher in a clean energy economy,” said Secretary of Energy Steven Chu. “Many companies already realize that improving efficiency saves money while helping the environment. These projects will make energy efficiency technologies more widely available, cutting energy use and reducing carbon pollution across the country.”

The industrial sector uses more than 30 percent of U.S. energy and is responsible for nearly 30 percent of U.S. carbon emissions. This award will provide a wide array of energy efficiency activities that will benefit local industry, including: energy assessments, an American National Standards Institute accredited plant certification pilot program, and local training centers which will help develop the market for industrial energy efficiency in the Southeast.

This project is an extension of DOE's successful Save Energy Now initiative, which provides plant energy assessments and technical assistance to energy intensive industrial facilities. Since the program's inception in 2006, more than 2,300 assessments have been completed.

As a result, over 1,500 industrial facilities adopted energy efficiency measures which have saved \$218 million, 35 trillion BTUs, and 2.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide each year.

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