



EDA Update



Special Edition

Energy Regional Innovation Cluster Funding Opportunity Announced

*"By leveraging resources across the Federal government
and building on regional strengths, we'll improve
business opportunities, enhance our nation's global
economic competitiveness and create sustainable, 21st
century jobs."*

– Commerce Secretary Gary Locke

The Obama administration is working to build a sustainable national economy by accelerating the transition to a more entrepreneurial, innovation-driven society. Today, I am pleased to share with you that, working together, seven federal agencies have issued a unique [joint funding opportunity](#) encouraging consortia from regions across the country to compete for a combined investment of up to \$129 million to accelerate the development of a Regional Innovation Cluster (RIC) specializing in energy-efficient building technologies (E-RIC).

In this pilot project, the cluster will be supported through agency investments in technology and business development, with support for workforce education and training.

The Obama Administration convened this taskforce to develop a replicable and sustainable model for coordinated federal and regional efforts that foster and use regional innovation clusters to:

- Develop, expand, and commercialize innovative energy efficient building systems technologies, designs, and best practices for national and international distribution and for reducing the carbon footprint of the United States;
- Create and retain good jobs;
- Eliminate gaps between the supply and demand for skilled workers in the E-RIC through training and education;
- Increase regional gross domestic product (GDP);

- Promote innovation in science and technology generally and, with respect to this project, promote energy efficient building systems, designs and best practices; and
- Enhance the economic, technological, and commercial competitiveness of the United States on the global stage.

Investing in RICs is critical to our nation's future economic competitiveness. Whether the investment comes from the federal or state government, local municipalities, the private sector, or—ideally—all of the above, those dollars will do a lot more good if they serve a well-developed regional strategy that links, leverages and aligns core regional strengths.

I encourage all interested parties to take advantage of this opportunity by contacting R&D hubs, labs, and other economic development practitioners in your regions to alert them of this new federal funding opportunity and to work with them to build a consortium. There is a lot of exciting work being done in the energy efficiency industry and EDA is proud to be a part of this exciting project to enhance our nation's competitiveness and to create jobs.

More information on the Regional Innovation Clusters and the E-RIC can be found at: www.eda.gov/RIC.xml.